Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-93-068
Monday
12 April 1993

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Government Decides To Recognize Macedonia

AU1004191593 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] At 0900 [0700 GMT] today President Sali Berisha summoned the chairmen of the governmental parties and the parliamentary groups, the People's Assembly Presidency, and the foreign minister, to consult with them on recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In the discussion they expressed concern over the unstable situation in the region and the possibility of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia spreading south. In this respect, they viewed the admission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia into the United Nations as an historic event for the peoples of this state and as a positive step in guaranteeing the stability of this country.

They agreed unanimously to officially recognize the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This step will further encourage the development of bilateral relations and contribute to creating an atmosphere of good faith and stability in the region. Albania expects the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to solve the question of the human and national rights of the Albanians in Macedonia in conformity with the standards and the commitments of the CSCE and other international documents, along with its other problems put forward for solution. The accomplishment of all these rights in conformity with the standards and commitments of these international documents will be the main factor in ensuring stability and the prospects of the new state. This factor will undoubtedly determine the friendly attitude of the Albanian Government regarding bilateral relations and its position in the CSCE and other international forums concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Meksi Says Changes To Give Impetus to Reform

AU0904073393 Tirana ATA in English 0806 GMT 8 Apr 93

[ATA Report: "Reshuffles in the Meksi Cabinet Are Very Important and Were Made in Time—Opinions"]

[Text] Tirana, April 8 (ATA)—The newspaper RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE has published in its today's issue a statement of the President of the Republic Sali Berisha regarding the changes made in the Meksi government on April 6. It says that the proposals of Mr. Meksi for some reshuffles in his cabinet are made in time and are very important, because these changes coincide with the period where Albania should take part in the mid range programs of economic cooperation and revival. These changes were indispensable also to correct some shortcomings noticed in the course of the reform in this period.

One of the most important questions today is to coordinate the activity of ministries which are directly linked with the reform. To this end, Mr. Kopliku was released from his post of the minister of public order and was charged with the questions of the reform. I am convinced that Mr. Agron Musaraj will carry out the task of the minister of public order in cooperation with other forces. The appointment of two new non-member ministers, who are distinguished specialists and intellectuals in their fields, Mr. Berisha says further on, marks a further expansion of the basis of coalition and the executive power. Over 40 percent of the government is made up of non-party member people or in coalition with other parties. Reshuffles in the government prove of its regenerative capabilities.

"The changes made by the president of the republic, at the request of the prime minister, were changes which, we as a Democratic Party, had required at the meeting of the National Council and of the group of deputies," the Chairman of the Democratic Party Eduard Selami said, underlining that "these changes intend the improvement of the government work and of the whole democrats-governed structures, recognizing all the achievements of the reform in Albania."

The chairman of the Socialist Party Fatos Nano stated that with all these changes, the people "still expect."

He specified that "with the government's resignation we have meant and mean the change of the course, the present way of governing by the Democratic Party, generally characterized by neo monism, anachronic actions of freezing the local government, political cleansing in the name of the reform, restoration of the political and social economic situations of pre-liberation, etc."

"Like in all the democratic world, ministers are not permanent and are not replaced for mistakes only but they may be replaced in order that a new impetus be given to the reform in the actual new stage," the Premier Aleksander Meksi said regarding the reshuffles in the government, adding that "a year is enough for a government to make reshuffles."

While the new ministers voiced their responsibility for the new tasks they are charged with.

Article Reviews Crime Data, Role of Police

AU1004191793 Tirana RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE in Albanian 27 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Order in Democratic Albania—Police as Instrument of Law"]

[Text] The 22 March elections found the police in a very miserable and discriminated situation, unsupported and significantly lacking basic legislation. Complete anarchy and an absolute lack of order and peace prevailed. People lived with anxiety concerning their lives and property.

From now on, the police of the new democratic state will function as an instrument of the law and not be guided

by party doctrines and platforms as it was under dictatorship. That is why assembling a law-abiding and qualified police force was an imperative project.

The reform was carried out in less than eight months. Along with dismissals, measures were taken so as to incorporate people from civilian life, the Army, and the ranks of political prisoners and persecutees.

After proposals by the minister of order, several laws were prepared and passed in 1992. Existing laws underwent improvement and, on their foundation, the ministry thoroughly discussed regulations, orders, instructions, written orders, etc.

The approval of the Law on Arms and the Council of Ministers' decision analyzing it, the Law on the Guard of the Republic, several amendments to the Law on Police and Order and the Law on Public Order and Calm, amendments to the Traffic Code, as well as amendments to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code significantly helped the police in all duties and generally contributed to improving the public order.

In applying the law the ministry has issued 40 orders, instructions, and regulations of a normative character during the year.

Never before have the police had such broad and well-defined legal authority. We should not forget that two years ago the entire police department acted only on the basis of one decree with four articles. This shows the care taken by the government and parliament, which liberated the police from the shackles of dictatorship.

It is very clear to all that the opening to the world and the free movement of people, vehicles, and goods would necessarily be accompanied by new crimes.

The duties that the law assigns to the police are numerous, but the most important ones were studied and placed in focus. The performance of these duties would lead to the stabilization of the situation.

One goal has been crime prevention, to prevent the loss of order and facilitate catching criminals red-handed.

By promptly discussing the instructions, making plans, assigning some administrative staff, rendering concrete assistance to the public order institutions, carrying out explanatory work, and coordinating with other government and justice authorities, the police managed to collect 40,000 weapons within a short period of time and catch 461 persons red-handed for illegally possessing weapons.

Compared to 1991, crime went down 32 percent in 1992 and convictions increased 15.2 percent. The chart represents a gradual decrease from one quarter to another. Thus, in the first quarter there were 77 murders reported, 72 in the second, 61 in the third, and 41 in the fourth. The same trend can be seen in regard to theft and several other crimes.

The main categories of crime were the following:

There were recorded 7.4 murders and 239.6 robberies per 100,000 people. These figures are below those of several industrialized countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, etc., and approximately equivalent to those of such countries as Italy, France, Bulgaria, etc.

Crime From April 1992 to March 1993

Type of Crime	Number of Incidents	Conviction Rate
Murder	529	93.0
Assault	1,167	91.1
Rape	182	98.3
Theft [Aggregate]	814	72.9
Theft of Public Property	435	87.1
Robbery	496	83.8
Theft and Vandalism	7,090	70.8
Classification of KUART E DOK [abbreviation unknown]	128	98.4
Narcotics, Weapons Smuggling	9	100.0
Total	9,976	77.3

Berov Speaks on Problems of Ethnic Muslims

AU0904163893 Sofia BTA in English 1613 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Evgeniya Drumeva]

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—Prime Minister Lyuben Berov made a thirty-minute expose in parliament on attempts to force Bulgarian Mohammedans living in the Rhodope Mountains (Pirin Macedonia) to identify themselves as Turks. Answering a question by Gincho Pavlov MP [member of parliament] of the Fatherland Party of Labour (a nationalist party in the coalition led by the Bulgarian Socialist Party), the prime minister said a failure to clarify the whole range of reasons leading to such developments would mean merely to scratch the surface of the matter.

Bulgarian Mohammedans, according to most historians, are of ethnic Bulgarian origin. Their mother tongue is Bulgarian, but they profess Islam. The press recently has reported cases of forcing Bulgarian Muslims to identify themselves as Turks, citing pressure from emissaries of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) (the ethnic Turks' party, the third force in parliament, on whose mandate the present cabinet was formed). The press reported cases of Muslim priests refusing to perform last rites for Mohammedans bearing Bulgarian names. Prosecutor General Ivan Tatarchev recently visited an area populated by Bulgarian Muslims and ordered an investigation against a DPS mayor.

According to last December's census, 28,000 people who identified themselves as Turks said their mother tongue was Bulgarian. Information on the exact number of Bulgarian Muslims is unavailable.

Prime Minister Berov today quoted his cabinet's policy declaration, which says "the cabinet will not tolerate expressions of nationalism and attempts to manipulate the population or Turkicization in areas of mixed ethnic and religious communities."

According to Mr. Berov, numerous reasons led part of the Bulgarian Muslims to identify themselves as Turks. "We should keep in mind the historical predicament of Bulgarian Mohammedans over the last 80 years, which inflicted heavy wounds on their mentality, and how often their names have been changed," the prime minister said. He said there is evidence these people identified themselves as Turks in past years, for example in the 1930's, and recalled that the communist regime forced them to adopt Slavic names through brutal violence in the early 1970's.

According to Mr. Berov, the way Christian Bulgarians feel about this population is not unimportant, either. He cited a report on an inquiry into complaints of forcible Turkicization, conducted by the Sofia Regional Administration last December. The report contained expressions such as "twelve new appointees, including two Bulgarians." The premier wondered what the other ten persons could be.

The premier also stressed the impact of Bulgarian nationalists' campaigns against the restoration of ethnic Turks' names (who were forcibly renamed under the communist regime) and against the introduction of mother-tongue Turkish classes in the curricula of Bulgarian schools. "You may not be aware there is a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the problem we are now discussing and the Razgrad Bulgarian Republic you sponsored," Mr. Berov said, addressing the MP. ("The Razgrad Republic" was proclaimed in Razgrad, in a region inhabited by mixed population, in November 1990 by Bulgarian nationalists who declared Bulgarian was the sole official language). The premier called on the DPS to help the government explain to Bulgarian Mohammedans, part of whom sympathize with the movement, that, according to UN and UNESCO definitions, their mother tongue is Bulgarian.

The prime minister cited the economic crisis, particularly grave in areas inhabited by Bulgarian Muslims, as another factor strengthening their anxiety.

"We cannot ignore the influence of political strife on Bulgarian Mohammedans, the political forces' efforts to mobilize and harden their electorate can sometimes have a disastrous effect on relations between ethnic and religious groups," Mr. Berov said. He categorically stated the government will not allow "expressions of violence, threats, abuse of power or other illegal actions to violate the citizens' right to a free ethnic self-identification, including the right to a free choice of a name."

Although he expressed a measure of disagreement with the prime minister's expose, Mr. Pavlov congratulated him on his discussion, which broke the taboo on the subject of Bulgarian Mohammedans.

Berov Interviewed on Land Restitution

AU1204055293 Sofia BTA in English 1913 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 11 (BTA)—Interviewed on Channel One of national television, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov denied allegations that his government was planning to restitute land within notional boundaries. Under the agricultural Land Tenure Act, passed in early 1991 and repeatedly amended, farm land in Bulgaria, which was cooperativized in the 1950s, has to revert to its original owners within physical boundaries. "The government never intended to restitute land within notional boundaries, it abides and will keep abiding by the law," Prof. Berov pointed out.

He denied that President Zhelyu Zhelev and he had differences over the matter.

Lyuben Berov pointed out in his interview that his cabinet did not revise the end-of-March deadline, given by the previous government for the distribution of the former cooperative farms' land and other assets by the liquidation councils. Commenting on current demands to extend the deadline until the end of the year, the prime minister said that this invites the question as to what these councils are going to do. More than 60 per cent of the total of 2,083 councils have completed their work by early April. The other 40 per cent are not yet through basically because the cooperative farm archives have been destroyed in a number of places, and law courts will have to apportion land on the basis of title deeds. "This is a procedure which may take more than a year," Prime Minister Berov said. There are cases of disputes between intercooperative enterprises. In his view, however, there is yet another aspect to the problem about an extension of the life of the liquidation councils: It is precisely these councils that account for most of the areas put under crops in Bulgaria. They have planted crops in large tracts, just as the cooperative farms used to do. "People who want all liquidation councils to stay in operation until the end of the year want to keep this collective farming of the land in large tracts, which is tantamount to preserving the old cooperative farms," Prof. Berov observed.

The Bulgarian head of government is worried by the forthcoming great fragmentation of the land. Five million hectares are claimed for restitution in 1,700,000 applications. Some applications have been filed by several co-owners, which implies that the average size of a land plot per owner is 0.16 hectares. By comparison in 1926 the average size of a farm in Bulgarian was 0.56 hectares, the professor said. "You realize that with such fragmentation there can be no efficient farming," Mr. Berov noted. He cited a study according to which most Bulgarians who own land do not intend to farm it themselves but plan to transfer it to somebody else for farming. "What lies ahead is a tortuous period of new consolidation, which take years and will be ridden with conflicts," the prime minister predicts.

Asked about his impressions of meeting people in the countryside, Lyuben Berov said that most complaints and discontent had been about the performance of individual members of liquidation councils, who abused their authority for their personal benefit. He was also told about disputes between peasants and between villages over land-use area boundaries. The prime minister pointed out yet another problem: The lack of legislation on the indemnification of farmers who owned land in environmentally degraded areas.

Zhelev, Government Welcome Macedonia Into UN

AU0904202493 Sofia BTA in English 1909 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—On behalf of the Bulgarian people and on his own behalf, President Zhelyu Zhelev of Bulgaria cabled most cordial congratulations to President Kiro Gligorov of Macedonia on that country's admission as 181st member of the United Nations.

"The Republic of Bulgaria, which was the first to recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Macedonia together with the three other former Yugoslav republics, empathizes with the endorsement of its full-fledged international status," the cable reads. It emphasizes that the UN General Assembly resolution is consistent with the efforts of the world body to guarantee the security of the Republic of Macedonia and stability in the Balkans.

President Zhelev expresses confidence in the fine prospects for friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria issued a declaration greeting the admission to the United Nations Organization of the Republic of Macedonia, provisionally designated within the organization as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." "This is an event of historic importance not only for the young independent state, but for the entire region of the Balkans," the declaration says.

The Bulgarian Government is convinced that the admission of the new republic as full member of the United Nations will contribute to its sooner and wider international recognition as an important condition for its independent, peaceful and democratic development.

The Republic of Bulgaria reaffirms its readiness to pursue the widest possible mutually advantageous cooperation with that friendly neighbouring state on the basis of the principles and purposes enshrined in the UN Charter.

Mikhaylov Admits Corruption in Interior Ministry

AU0904162993 Sofia BTA in English 1539 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—Interior Minister Viktor Mikhaylov today disclosed to parliament information on corruption at the ministry he heads. Two weeks ago, Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov also spoke to MP's about corruption in the ministry in his charge.

"Corruption in government is not only a topical but also a very serious and alarming issue," Mr. Mikhaylov said today, answering an MP's question. There is information of corruption in the Ministry of the Interior, yet, according to the ministry's leadership, it does not reflect the actual state of affairs in full measure. Mr. Mikhaylov said this was due to the fact that corruption charges were hard to prove. There is no special body in the Interior Ministry structures to deal with corruption among ministry employees, he said.

Bribery, abuse of authority and official position, and extortion are characteristic manifestations of corruption at the ministry. Ten cases of bribery, three of abuse of

authority for gaining personal benefit and one of extortion were registered between April 1992 and March 1993. The records have been handed over to the Armed Forces Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Mikhaylov said his ministry was working on a package of measures to reduce factors fostering corruption. He said guarantees of stability and a continued professional career were a key condition to eliminate corruption as a method of providing for the future.

Finance Minister Comments on Budget Debate

AU1104191393 Sofia BTA in English 1621 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 11 (BTA)—Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov says the budget projections may be observed if the banking sector reform goes on, privatization does get off the ground and parliament passes a bankruptcy act. The 1993 National Budget Act was introduced before the National Assembly last week, and the standing committees will start considering it tomorrow. Under the bill, the cash budget deficit will be 8 per cent of the gross domestic product. According to a release of the government press office, the budget balance is at a critical limit, beyond which a nominal increase of outlays will lead to their real-terms decrease.

Asked what will happen if the 8 per cent limit is not observed, Finance Minister Aleksandrov said in the prime-time national radio weekly political review Nedelya 150 that this need not be dramatized. "Every year we project one figure and we account another, it won't be the first time. But we should try to avoid it because otherwise, we will have to tighten the austerity policy," he said. The introduction of the draft budget before parliament was delayed, among other things, because of the talks with the International Monetary Fund which were held in late March.

The budget debate will put to a serious test the government headed by Prof. Lyuben Berov, an independent economist, which was elected at the end of December 1992 on the mandate of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) thanks to the votes of the Bulgarian Socialist (ex-Communist) Party (BSP) and of M.P.'s who had been expelled or broke away from the anti-communist Union of Democratic Forces (SDS). According to recent statements by politicians of different parliamentary parties, a defeat of the budget bill would be tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the government.

In connection with the cabinet's first 100 days in office, the parliamentary SDS issued a declaration, describing the period as "100 Days of Restoration and Failure." However, judging from statements by DPS and BSP politicians in last night's TV news and views show Panorama, Prof. Berov's government has prospects. "It would be unfair to say that this government has used up its credit of confidence," said Mr. Yunal Lyutfi M.P., spokesman for the Movement for Rights and Freedoms. When it was formed, the cabinet called itself a "government of privatization" but has done little to live up to this claim so far. Last night Mr. Lyutfi described it as a "government of dialogue" on account of the consultations which the prime minister and cabinet members hold with the political forces and the trade unions. Mr. Andrey Lukanov M.P.of the BSP, former prime minister, believes that the BSP has no reason to regret having supported the government of Lyuben Berov whom he called "a capable, experienced and honest politician." Evaluating the first 100 days of Prof. Berov's cabinet, his predecessor Filip Dimitrov, leader of the SDS, said that his government had been less committed to the political forces while the Berov administration had to reckon above all with the former Communist Party.

In a traditional poll of 100 leading Bulgarian journalists, 56 per cent gave the government's performance during its first 100 days a c, 28 per cent a d, 3 per cent a b, and 11 per cent a "poor."

UK Official Promises Support for Army Reform

AU1004180093 Sofia BTA in English 1701 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—"We give every support we possibly can to the reforms within the Ministry of Defence.... I see the future holding an increasing number of contacts between our two countries and we hope to be able to contribute to the debate which is going on in Bulgaria about future defence policy," Mr. Archie Hamilton, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, said at the end of his two-day official visit here.

"The talks and the meetings which I've had here I think have been very useful for Bulgaria and for the UK and will help very much to strengthen the links between our two countries," Mr. Hamilton told the press before leaving. The official met with Bulgarian Defence Minister Valentin Aleksandrov and officers of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army yesterday and with Deputy Prime Minister Neycho Neev today, and visited a military base in Gorna Banya near Sofia.

"And we are very keen that the Owen-Vance plan should be implemented and that all the fighting factions in Bosnia should sign up to this plan.... Which at the moment looks unlikely," he said.

"We remain of course extremely concerned that the conflict in former Yugoslavia may actually spread to Macedonia," he said, asked to comment on the British stance on Macedonia. "And so we will do everything that we can to guarantee the integrity of Macedonia and make it quite clear that if Serbian aggression goes to spread there it will be dealt with very firmly," Mr. Hamilton specified.

1993 Budget Bill Submitted to National Assembly

AU0904140393 Sofia BTA in English 1207 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—The 1993 budget bill was submitted to the National Assembly yesterday afternoon. It plans national budget revenues to total 71,349.7 million leva, excluding revenues transferred by the municipalities under the effective legislation. Tax revenues are projected to amount to 63,840.5 million leva, 89.48 percent of total revenues. Non-tax revenues are set at 7,509.2 million leva, 10.52 percent of total revenues.

The budget bill projects expenditures to total 98,933.7 million leva, including outlays for wages and salaries, social security contributions, grants, defence and security, interest payments on internal and external loans, subsidies to municipal councils, etc.

The major integrating indicator, the cash deficit, is planned to reach 27,584 million leva, 8 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product]. Given the higher one-time expenditures for the implementation of structural adjustment, the cash deficit corresponds to the macroeconomic objectives. It should be stressed, however, that the budget balance has reached a critical limit, beyond which a nominal increase in expenditures will lead to their decrease in real terms. As in 1992, the exchequer will not rely on external deficit financing. Operations abroad are expected to produce a negative net balance of the change of the public debt and the budget monetary resources. The negative balance is estimated at 1.2 percent of the GDP. It should be offset by an increased amount of internal financing. It will be effected through issues of government securities and borrowing from the Bulgarian National Bank at a ratio of 1.3 to 2.3, which reflects the potential of the internal lending market.

Following is a breakdown of expenditures planned in the central government budget:
1. State services, including the executive and the legislative branch and science: 4,239.1 million leva.
2. Defence and security: 12,632.1 million leva, including:
defence—total expenditure 8,786.7 million leva,
police, fire service and security service—3,845.4 million leva.
3. Education: 5,475.3 million leva.
4. Health care: 4,407.9 million leva.
5. Social security and welfare (war pensions, homes for orphans and elderly people, social work); 1,510.5 million leva.
6. Housing construction, public works and supply services: 1,197.8 million leva.
7. Culture, recreation and religion: 1,742.8 million leva.
8. Economic services: 15,920.4 million leva. These include outlays for fuels and energy, agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing, mineral resources and mining, transport and communications, environmental protection, standardization, metrology, etc.
9. Expenditures related to the internal and the external debt and the natural disaster relief fund: 33,298.4 million leva.

The social security budget is submitted for approval along with the budget bill. Revenues from taxes, social security contributions and interest on insurers' audit reports are planned to amount to 39,295.2 million leva. Expenditures on salaries and wages, grants, social security and welfare are projected to reach 39,295.2 million leva.

Also proposed is the budget for the judiciary. It envisages revenues from fees to the amount of 1,123.2 million leva, and expenditures on salaries, grants, etc., 1,123.2 million leva.

Local authorities have been assigned 225.9 million leva in subsidies. Income tax revenues will be split on a fifty-fifty basis between local government budgets and the central government budget.

The primary budget balance is projected to be positive at 1.6 percent of the GDP. The internal deficit will reach 6.6 percent. The overall deficit is projected to decrease, but the amount cannot be specified because it depends on arrangements on foreign debt reduction and servicing.

DPS Accused of Interfering in Local Organs

AU0904094193 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 1 Apr 93 p 6

[Commentary by Radka Petrova: "Rights and Freedoms Movement Persists in Meddling in Work of Other Authorities"]

[Text] The DPS [Rights and Freedoms Movement] organization in Kurdzhali sent a message to the district prosecutor, district judge, and district police chief summoning them to a working conference called by the DPS. Two of those invited wrote back rejecting this inadmissible interference by a political force in the work of independent organs of authority, while the third did not reply at all. All three failed to respond to the summons.

Neither this refusal nor the accusations of meddling in other people's affairs seem to have left any impression on the DPS leaders. They seem to be convinced that they are in total control of the eastern Rhodopes and believe that all their wishes will be fulfilled. It seems that they always manage to get their own way.

In actual fact, the DPS has persisted in meddling in the work of the other authorities for months on end. Some time ago the mayors of seven municipalities in the eastern Rhodopes sent a petition to former Interior Minister Yordan Sokolov for the dismissal of the local police chiefs in Kurdzhali and elsewhere on the alleged grounds that they were unworthy of their posts and were hampering the mayors' work. In a fit of amnesia, the minister told the press that he knew nothing about such a petition. Some days later, the measures demanded by

the DPS were carried out in exemplary fashion. Supposedly, this idea was suggested to Sokolov "from above," and not inspired by local mayors and politicians.

At the start of September the deputy regional leader of the DPS in Krumovgrad showed the red card to Filip Dimitrov and his cabinet on the grounds that they were ignoring their partners [the DPS]. Everyone knows what happened to our Phil Kennedy [sarcastic name for Filip Dimitrov] a little later.

A domineering DPS deputy, while drinking in a tavern in Kurdzhali, demanded that the local police chief should report to him immediately. When the police officer in question replied that no one except the interior minister was able to give him orders, the National Assembly member had the effrontery to rip off the insignia from the officer's uniform.

Before the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission had time to issue a ruling on the infractions of the law committed by the mayor of Dzhebel, DPS members of parliament and activists made an on-the-spot visit and declared that he was an excellent administrator. To date the parliamentary commission has failed to visit the municipality.

As the whole of Bulgaria learned recently, the DPS summoned teachers from Bulgarian state schools to a conference in Momchilgrad and, ignoring the Constitution, managed to prove that Turkish can also be used as an official language.

I will disregard as minor incidents the attempt by a DPS mayor to meddle even in church affairs, and the attempt by another DPS man to issue orders to the traffic police and Internal Ministry troops.

The DPS has its say on what happens in the eastern Rhodopes.

SDS Opposes Attempts To Stop Decommunization

AU0904064593 Sofia BTA in English 1857 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 8 (BTA)—The Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) will oppose by all parliamentary means the attempts to stop decommunization and to restore communism in Bulgaria, it is pointed out in a declaration of the parliamentary group of the SDS read on Channel 1 of Bulgarian National Television tonight.

The purpose of the SDS is to dismantle the totalitarian communist system by adopting laws for the realization and promotion of the democratic processes in Bulgaria, the declaration says further on. According to the parliamentary group of the SDS, the new majority in parliament (formed after the ousting of the government of the SDS and comprising MP's who left the SDS and the parliamentary groups of the formerly communist Bulgarian Socialist Party and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms) is blocking the passing of laws guaranteeing the democratic changes. The attempts to revise acts already passed by parliament are also obvious, acts which are at the basis of the reform, and this is aimed at stopping the restitution of land to its rightful owners and the decommunization of higher education, according to the parliamentary group of the SDS.

According to the SDS MP's [members of parliament], through its new majority parliament is fulfilling a commission and serving political interests which, at best, are seeking to return Bulgaria to the "perestroyka" stage.

Article Assesses New Parliamentary Group

AU0804184693 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 2 Apr 93 p 8

[Article by Stefan Prodev: "Parliament Is Becoming More Exciting]

[Text] Yesterday's parliamentary session could be described as more exciting than usual, not simply because the request of Chief Prosecutor Tatarchev to deprive Dimitur Velev of his parliamentary immunity was rejected by open vote, but because the most recently established parliamentary group, that of the so called "ants" (rank and file dissidents), namely the New Alliance for Democracy, demonstrated its independence. The group refused to support the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] (Movement) and the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] on this issue, thus introducing a new political trend into the National Assembly's activities. In casting its decisive vote, the group of new democrats unmistakably showed that the parliamentary landscape is not only becoming more complex, but also that it can no longer be easily manipulated by those who were used to playing against one opponent only.

For the first time since the opening of this parliament, the SDS (Movement) and the DPS felt that they had come across an unexpected and unpredictable obstacle that interefed with their familiar domino game. This applies in particular to the DPS Parliamentary Group, which was used to playing the role of a balancing force in parliament whenever it felt like it, regardless of the commitments it assumed and irrespective of common national interests. It is becoming increasingly evident that the famous "Genscher tactics," namely the method of playing two major parliamentary forces off against each other, will no longer be available to them. The deputies who split away from the SDS, having rejected the diktat of the SDS National Coordinating Council and of their Parliamentary Group, are also aspiring to be a balancing force and tip the scales. This is likely to have a serious effect on Dogan's people's monopoly over the balance of parliamentary forces and to transform the vote from simple arithmetics into a puzzle with numerous unknown factors.

Viewed from this angle, the new parliamentary group is likely to upset numerous plans made in advance. Despite its insignificant size, the group is capable of unpredictable moves that inevitably complicate the situation and the deputies' work. It is no exaggeration to say that the

time of easy manipulations and tricks is over. So far it has been easy to talk one way, but to vote another. Easy to use the rostrum for lengthy and hypocritical speeches, before the button is pushed to stop you. It is quite evident from now on that each of the parliamentary groups will be reminded of a certain presence whenever it is time for voting, and the "ants" are likely to crawl onto many people's nerves. It is certain that on certain occasions the members of the new parliamentary group are likely to support those who are pleading for a just cause, rather than those who have the stronger arguments. Naturally it does not mean that their vote will always be just and that they are not likely to be guided by opportunism. As a matter of fact, selfish interests always prevail in the long run, and are likely to influence the vote of the new group as well. Politics is a merry-go-round and the new democrats will ride on it according to the rules of the parliamentary game, which does not lessen the importance of their appearance. They are here to complicate the game, and this is sufficient to prevent us from underestimating them.

The presence of the new parliamentary group is a chance for all those who are trying to form useful alliances. From this point of view, it can also represent a lucky chance for the Parliamentary Alliance of Social Democracy [PSSD]. It is not the chance to become more powerful, but a chance to accomplish more useful legislative work. In this respect, the socialist deputies and their allies can be a great help for parliament, depending on the way they treat the "mice" of the new parliamentary group, namely like well-meaning colleagues rather than elephants. This should not mean that the Socialists would only rely on compromises and underrate their own potential. On the contrary, it is precisely on the basis of their own strength that they could establish a useful dialogue for the benefit of parliamentary work as a whole. There is no doubt that their efforts in this respect are likely to be accompanied by bitter pills and disappointments, but this should not discourage them. It is not a question of political dividends, but of normal parliamentary relations without mutually disgracing each other and without shady conspiracies. Nothing more than normal relations and decency should be expected of our new colleagues, and this is what they should also expecting of us.

Tomsk Radioactive Cloud Thought No Danger

AU0904140293 Sofia BTA in English 1249 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—Prime Minister Lyuben Berov told parliament today that the Government Commission for Protection from Natural Disasters and Industrial Accidents yesterday met in connection with the accident at the chemical works in Tomsk-7 and the potential danger that the radioactive cloud may reach Bulgaria. "We have no information about its course and dispersion and it cannot be said with certainty whether it will pass over Bulgaria, in my opinion there is no real danger," Prof. Berov said, answering a question by MP's whether a story in today's 24 CHASA is true. It says the radioactive cloud is drifting towards Bulgaria and may reach Sofia in 15 days.

Bulgarians are very sensitive to the danger of radiation because a year after the ouster of the communist regime it emerged this country was among the worst hit by the Chernobyl accident. At that time the authorities did nothing to protect the population and even withheld information of the danger. The public still suspects that such information may be covered up.

Associate Professor Vasil Andreev, director of the National Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, commented on the speculations in 24 CHASA. It is possible that contaminated air will penetrate over Europe in a week or two, but even a rough estimate shows the concentration of the contaminant will decrease over 1,000 million times due to dispersion in the air, said Andreev. This means that from the middle of next week specialized teams in this country should expect to register an increase, probably slight, in background radiation.

Vessel Detained on Danube Allowed To Sail

AU0904202293 Sofia BTA in English 1854 GMT 9 Apr 93

["Today"—BTA lead]

[Text] Sofia, April 9 (BTA)—The remains of the three Bulgarian servicemen who were killed in Cambodia arrived at Sofia Airport this morning and were met with full military honours.

The caskets, covered with the Bulgarian tricolour and the UN flag, were saluted by Defence Minister Valentin Aleksandrov, the Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian Army General Lyuben Petrov, the national security advisor to the president General Stoyan Andreev, representatives of the Office of the President, of parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Bulgarian Army Command, the Patriarchate, the Union of War Veterans, and members of the separate infantry battalion deployed in Cambodia.

"We insist on urgent decisions to guarantee the safety and the possible prompt withdrawal of the Bulgarian soldiers from Cambodia," says a declaration issued by families of Bulgarian blue helmets, received in the BTA.

The declaration protests the inaction of the government and the Office of the President over the tragic incidents. "We do not want our relations to be the target of political games with ill-advised decisions," the declaration reads in conclusion.

Back from a visit to the Royal Air Force Hospital in Bangkok, two Bulgarian medical officers said that one of the three wounded Bulgarian peacekeepers is still in a critical condition and the other two are recovering.

The Bulgarian physicians found that the Bulgarian soldiers had been wounded with advanced automatic small-bore rapid-fire firearms. They are categorical that no flak jacket could protect a wearer from fire of type of weapons at such a close range.

The wounded Bulgarian soldiers denied the press allegations that one of them had been fired upon after a dinner involving drinking and a play of cards. The medical experts found no alcohol in their blood.

Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev returned from a working visit to Switzerland where he was received by President Adolf Ogi. Mr. Tanev said that agreements were reached with the Swiss Agriculture Ministry on expert and financial assistance in land surveying and registration. Switzerland is expected to provide some 17 million Swiss francs in aid for Bulgarian farming.

Deputy Prime Minister Evgeni Matinchev today received Mr. Jorge Fuentes Monzonis Villalonga, the newly appointed ambassador of Spain to Bulgaria. The diplomat briefed the deputy prime minister on the forthcoming visit by their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain to Bulgaria, scheduled for May 22, 1993, and expressed the hope that this visit will boost bilateral relations.

Mr. Matinchev also received Mr. Gombosurengiyn Dashdabaa, the ambassador of Mongolia to Bulgaria, at the latter's request. The ambassador briefed the deputy prime minister on the natural disaster which inflicted serious damages on three western provinces of Mongolia and conveyed a request from the Government of Mongolia for relief aid, mainly in the form of food, clothing and medicine. Mr. Matinchev promised to raise the possibility or rendering assistance to Mongolia at Monday's [12 April] cabinet meeting.

There is an international aspect as well to the matter of the dismantling of the Soviet Army Monument in Sofia, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov told parliament today, answering an MP's question as to whether he would allow the demolition of the monument. The premier recalled the March 1993 resolution of the Greater Sofia Council that the monument should be dismantled, not demolished. A way out of the situation will be sought which would not impair the fine relations between Bulgaria and Russia and the recent activation of mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation, Prof. Berov pointed out.

Forensic medics continue the post-mortems of the victims of the serious road accident, in which a Turkish bus carrying citizens of Romania, Turkey and the CIS fell into the River Yantra at Byala (northern Bulgaria) two days ago. Some of the dead have not yet been identified. The post-mortem will be completed and the bodies ready for repatriation on Sunday afternoon at the earliest. The investigation into the accident is going on, too.

The six U.S. patrol boats, provided to Bulgaria and Romania for enforcement of the embargo on the River Danube, will be delivered at a formal ceremony in the Danube ports of Ruse (northern Bulgaria) and Giurgiu (Romania) on April 17. The Ruse customs post said the three patrol boats earmarked for Romania arrived in Giurgiu tonight. The boats were transported by Romanian trailer trucks from the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta. The same trucks will transport the boats destined for Bulgaria. They are expected to cross the bridge at Ruse on Monday and the boats will be launched next Wednesday [14 April], when a U.S. team will arrive to train the Bulgarian and Romanian crews.

After a five-day demurrage in the port of Vidin, the Bulgarian ship Khan Kubrat with six barges carrying 4,270 tonnes of gas oil, freighted by a private company, was today formally cleared to sail on. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that the ship's papers and the permit from the UN Sanctions Committee were in order, Mr. Nedyalko Yolov, chief of the Vidin customs, told BTA.

The cargo, which is embargoed for transit across Serbia, will be shipped by the Danube to its ultimate consignee, the Bratislava-based company Sipox.

A representative of the freighting company said that the daily demurrage amounted to 5,000 U.S. dollars, excluding penalties for overdue delivery.

The ship was halted for inspection by the State Shipping Inspectorate, the Vidin customs and the border guards.

The content of hydrogen sulphide in the atmospheric air of Silistra was 1.5 times the maximum permissible concentration in Silistra (northeastern Bulgaria, on the River Danube) between 9 AM and 6 PM yesterday, according to the local laboratory of the regional environmental protection laboratory in Ruse. The laboratory lacks equipment that could take real-time readings of air pollution. The latest discharge of pollutants came only two days after the Bulgarian-Romanian coordinating commission on the environmental problems in the area of Silistra, Bulgaria, and Calarasi, Romania, met in the Bulgarian town.

Mr. Todor Velkov, chairman of the cooperative farm liquidation council in the village of Glozhene, Montana region (northwestern Bulgaria), threatened that he would lead the people of the village to block the road to the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and would thus disrupt the operation of the facility. Mr. Velkov was planning to protest in this way personal accusations of violating statutory provisions, levelled at him by the regional governor.

The employees of the Hail Suppression Directorate continue their effective strike action to press demands for payment of their wages for the last eight months. Population centres in the area of Montana were recently hit by a hailstorm, but the local hail suppression centre did not react. In a declaration addressed to the Council of Ministers and parliament, the employees of the centre said that until their problems are solved they disclaim

responsibility for any damage inflicted by possible future hailstorms. The protestors decided to block the intersection of the road from Vratsa to Sofia via the Petrokhan pass on April 21.

Mr Tomas Lafchis was reelected president of the Bulgarian Professional Football League at today's extroardinary general meeting of the league, which also elected a new nine-member Governing Board. Of the 36 Bulgarian football clubs, 32 are affiliated to the Professional Football League.

Slovak Heroin Smugglers Caught at Checkpoint

AU1104170993 Sofia BTA in English 1529 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 11 (BTA)—A total of 36 kg of pure heroin in 69 packs was seized at the Vidin border checkpoint (northwestern Bulgaria) yesterday, the Interior Ministry Press Center reported. The top-grade heroin was found in specially designed metal boxes.

Preliminary investigative proceedings have been initiated against the traffickers, Slovak citizens Tibor Habo, 29, and Vladislava Jorsova, 27, BTA learnt from the chief of the Regional National Security Service Borislav Vasilev. Jorsova's child, who travelled together with the drug couriers, has been handed over to the Slovak authorities.

German citizens carrying 23 kg and 32 kg consignments of heroin were caught at the Vidin crossing in February.

Heroin seizures by Bulgarian customs totalled 210 kg between January and November 1992, as against 170 kg throughout 1991. The traffickers were mainly Turks, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Czechs and Dutch. In March 1993 the Chief Secretary of the Interior Ministry Kosta Bogatsevski said that a total of 47 drug smuggling attempts had been foiled in the previous 12 months. He said that 80 per cent of the narcotics detected in western Europe did not arrive via Bulgaria but by the Balkan route.

Havel Addresses Czech UNPROFOR Batallion

LD0904040293 Prague CTK in English 1818 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK)—By its participation in the U.N. peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR), the Czech Republic demonstrates its being a democratic country interested in global developments, Czech President Valcav Havel said in Cesky Krumlov, south Bohemia, today.

Speaking to members of the Czech Army's UNPROFOR batallion, which is to replace the current Czech-Slovak troops stationned in the former Yugoslavia, Havel stressed that no state was obliged to participate in the UNPROFOR.

By our voluntary assistance we make clear our will to share responsibility for global peace, Havel pointed out.

The Czech army's UNPROFOR members deserve thanks of all citizens of the Czech Republic for their resolve and courage, Havel added.

The batallion's 326 soldiers have been trained at a centre in Cesky Krumlov since February 22. They are to leave for Yugoslavia in three groups, with the first group departing on April 12 and the latter two following each after a week. The batallion comprises 261 reservists and 65 career soldiers.

Havel Rejects Criticism of Talks With Communists

LD1104153693 Prague CTK in English 1502 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 11 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel has rejected the frequently occurring criticism of the anti-communist opposition's negotiations with the communist power in November 1989.

I must always laugh when reading that we promised the communists something like immunity during our round table debates (in November), Havel said in his regular Sunday address on Czech radio today.

He said such ideas are funny because in those days none of us knew whether or not they would lead us away with handcuffs on our hands, and all people were again and again surprised how the then power was breaking down before their eyes.

Havel, prominent playwright and founder of the Charter 77 Human Rights Movement, stood at the head of the Civic Forum initiative which helped topple the communist regime in Czechoslovakia in what was later termed as the velvet revolution of November 1989.

Havel stressed that he could not imagine how anything like such immunity for communists could be taken up during talks between representatives of the Civic Movement and the then communist leaders in November.

After a revolutionary change there always appear people saying that everything should have been done in a different way, Havel noted.

Dlouhy Reports Shift in Talks With Russia

LD0904203293 Prague CTK in English 1751 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 9 (CTK)—The Czech Republic's relations to Russia have registered a shift in priorities, Czech Minister of Industry and Trade Vladimir Dlouhy told journalists on returning from a three-day working visit to Moscow today.

The issue of bilateral trade is now being given top priority, a shift from the past emphasis on the repayment of the Russian, or former Soviet debt, Dlouhy said.

Several methods can be used to repay the Russian debt, Dlouhy declared, for instance its capitalisation, or else wiping off Russian enterprises' debts and using the means thus obtained to credit Russian purchases of Czech-made goods, Dlouhy explained.

The former Soviet Union's debt to the former Czechoslovakia was pinned at about five billion USD. After the Federation's split at the end of 1992, it was divided between the Czech and Slovak republics on a two-to-one ratio. Outstanding debts of 400 million USD, due directly to individual firms, form an exception to this. Out of this sum, 300 million USD are due to Czech firms, Dlouhy said.

Giving an account of his talks on supplies of Russian natural gas, Dlouhy said that a deal had been signed with the Russians for the Czech Republic to go on receiving this commodity until 1998 at a rate of eight billion cubic metres per year.

Another deal fixed the present arrangement of importing Russian oil, setting its quantity for this year at about seven million tonnes, Dlouhy noted. Signing an overall agreement on trade, economic and technical and scientific cooperation and initialling a document on bilateral trade for this year concluded the talks, Dlouhy declared.

Dlouhy expressed satisfaction that the Czech Republic presented itself in Russia as a stable trade partner, which is keen to do business not only with the West.

Dlouhy Calls EC Meat Ban 'Incomprehensible'

LD0904202193 Prague CTK in English 1717 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 9 (CTK)—Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy termed as incomprehensible the recent decision of the European Community commission banning imports of meat and dairy products from eastern Europe until May 7.

Speaking today on his return from a short working stay in Moscow, Dlouhy said that the EC had undertaken protectionist measures. The EC is using as the excuse an

outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Italy occuring after meat was imported there from former Yugoslav republics. Dlouhy said that the ban was shortsighted and added that during intensive meetings with the EC the commission's decision it should be overturned.

The minister stressed that the ban must be categorically rejected since it did not adhere to political promises made two or three years ago. He indicated that the Czech Government would counter with steps which he did not specify. Furthermore, Dlouhy pledged to forcefully present Czech grievances on broken promises at meetings with GATT, the EC and all the others.

He also called western complaints of being subject to dumping of inexpensive east European goods as two-faced since many similar products made in third countries are dumped in eastern Europe by western firms.

Chiefs, Problems of Intelligence Services Listed

AU1004175993 Prague RESPEKT in Czech No. 14, 5-18 Apr 93 p 4

["js"-signed commentary: "The Government's Attitude Toward Secret Services"]

[Text] There are four secret services in the Czech Republic, and they are unable to come to an agreement. According to one counterintelligence officer, three services are working on the same case without exchanging information. Unless the government defines areas of responsibility, our source says, no one can expect the agencies to produce good results.

Prime Minister Klaus Knew What He Was Talking About

On 29 March the newly constituted Council for Coordinating Secret Services met for its first meeting. The meeting was to find a way to eliminate shortcomings [in coordination between various branches of the secret service].

Sitting beside Vaclav Klaus, council chairman, were Stanislav Devaty, director of the Security Information Service (BIS); Oldrich Cerny, director of the Foreign Liaison Office (UZSI); Radovan Prochazka, director of intelligence for the Czech Army General Staff; and Miroslav Dufek, director of Military Defense Intelligence (VOZ). The meeting was also attended by the deputy ministers of four interested ministries, Petr Pelc, chief of the Council's Secretariat, and Klaus adviser Bohumil Dolezal.

According to our information, there were discussions within the secret services prior to this meeting about whether Prime Minister Klaus was the right person to chair the council. The intelligence people were reportedly "concerned" because Klaus is an economist and security issues are foreign to him. "Only six months ago he wanted to abolish the BIS, and there were fears that he would belittle its activity at the meeting of the council," a BIS officer revealed. Espionage organizations are subordinate to the government, however, and thus it is proper for the prime minister to coordinate their activities.

"I have a good feeling," Deputy Interior Minister Martin Fendrych said after the meeting. "Prime Minister Klaus knew what he was talking about and the result of the meeting will be to the secret services' benefit."

Disputes Over Concepts and Priorities

According to information we have obtained, the meeting confirmed that great mutual reservations exist among our spies. One branch is an unrelenting critic of the others, and vice versa. BIS representatives claim that people working in Army intelligence who worked there prior to November 1989 and that 50 percent of military counterintelligence people are former members of the Third State Security Corps [StB] Administration. The soldiers object that the situation in their services is all right and argue that, quite the contrary, many former StB people are working in the BIS. Besides these personal recriminations, there also are disputes over plans and priorities regarding possible threats to the state and the like.

Naturally, the meeting did not eliminate mutual resentment, but Prime Minister Klaus decided on two steps: Personnel will be cut, and the organizations must clearly divide among themselves their fields of responsibility. By the time of the next meeting in May, the directors must determine and outline their internal structures and areas of interests so that the services are able to defend their rights to existence.

The participants also agreed that the government, too, would complete one task by the time of the May meeting: an outline of activities, for which it will ask for the services' assistance. All the directors of the espionage organizations agree on one thing: The cabinet is not showing interest in their reports. Radovan Prochazka said: "There is almost never any government response to the information we supply, not even when the material is unusable or unnecessary." Stanislav Devaty said: "The ministers are not interested in the information we supply and are not even able to determine what we should be working on. There has been one exception: Minister Dlouhy praised us for the information that we prepared for his trip to China."

Official Says No Arms Offered by United States

AU0904101393 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 3 Apr 93 p 2

["jem"-signed report: "Americans Have Not Offered Us Arms, Novotny Says"]

[Text] Prague—The United States has not offered us military technology to reequip our army. This is what Jaromir Novotny, chief of the Administration of Foreign Relations at the Defense Ministry, said. According to

him, no such offer was made during the meeting between Defense Minister Baudys and U.S. Deputy Defense Minister William Perry at NATO headquarters. However, Jiri Pospisil—Baudys' deputy—said on Tuesday [30 March] that the Americans have offered us arms.

Chief Novotny also said that in Brussels they did not speak of the so-called "protection umbrella" over Central Europe. According to him, representatives of the NATO member countries only expressed the opinion that NATO would not idly stand by and watch if the situation significantly worsened east of the Czech Republic. In this connection, J. Novotny said that all the participants in the Brussels talks were taken aback by the statement of Russian Defense Minister Grachev, in which he announced that Russia is unilaterally stopping the withdrawal of its armed forces from the Baltics.

Official Reviews Visit To Slovenia, Croatia

LD1004175993 Prague CTK in English 1652 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 10 (CTK)—The Czech Republic's ties with Slovenia and Croatia have good prospects, Chairman of the Czech Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee Jiri Payne told CTK on returning from a five-day visit to the two countries today.

Payne was heading a Czech parliamentary delegation which held talks in Zagreb and Ljubljana, visited the Czech and Slovak UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] battalion stationed in Croatia, and met with representatives of ethnic Czechs living in the Daruvar district in Croatian Slavonia.

Payne said his talks with Slovenian parliamentary and government officials were very useful for the current talks on a free trade zone.

In spite of the difficult economic situation in Croatia, Payne said, there are many opportunities for Czech businessmen on the Croatian market. He added that especially short-term contracts would be useful now when the Czech Republic faces problems with quotas limiting its trade with the European Community countries.

The Croatian market demands cement, tractors, sheet glass, that is everything necessary for the post-war reconstruction of the country, Payne said. He noted that since the banking system does not function well in Croatia, it is necessary to conclude contracts with the mediation of Western banks.

Speaking about the Czech and Slovak UNPROFOR battalion, Payne said that its members, in contrast to units from other countries, manage to retain real neutrality and therefore they are given high credit by all parties involved in the conflict (in the former Yugoslavia-ed).

In Daruvar, the delegation learned that ethnic Czechs living there are very much interested in the possibility to study at Czech universities. Payne said that since the cost of foreigners' studies in the Czech Republic is very high, sponsors are being searched now. He said that assistance would also be sought from Czech state bodies.

Payne said that also this part of Croatia had been hit by the war even though not so badly as other parts of the former Yugoslavia. About one hundred ethnic Czechs have been killed in the fighting in the region, he said.

In this context Payne said that the humanitarian assistance provided to the Czech minority in Daruvar and its vicinity was of extreme importance. The ethnic Czechs shared this aid with members of other nationalities and that has considerably increased the credit of the Czech community, Payne said.

Kovac's Territorial Claim Disproved

AU0804123693 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Marek Stonis: "Territorial Compensation to the Slovak Republic Is Historically and Morally Unjustifiable"]

[Text] According to information provided to CESKY DENIK, there can be no equal sign between the secession of Slovak villages to Poland and the acquisition of Silesian territory in the Tesin region. This is what has ensued from information provided to CESKY DENIK by J. Zvacek, director of the Silesian Institute in Opava.

During complicated negotiations preceding the final signing of the Czech-Slovak treaties on the division of federal property, we heard an unexpected demand raised by the Slovak side through Michal Kovac on Friday [2 April]. The Slovak president said that Slovakia would demand compensation from the Czech side for eight Slovak villages that were given to Poland after 1945. According to M. Kovac, in exchange for these villages Czechoslovakia obtained a corresponding part of Polish territory in the Silesian part of the Tesin region. According to information available to CESKY DENIK, the Slovak Government is going to demand financial compensation from its Czech partner in exchange for decreasing Slovakia's debt, which is approximately 20 billion korunas.

The demand raised by the Slovak president is absolutely unacceptable to the Czech side, since a part of Silesia in the Tesin region was militarily occupied shortly after the Munich treaty was concluded in 1938. It was logical that this territory was returned to Czechoslovakia in 1945. In no terms can we speak about territorial compensation for the eight villages mentioned by Kovac. Here, the contrary it true:

The "ceding" of eight Slovak villages to Poland after the war has a completely different history. The villages in the Javorina and Spis were Polish villages until they were occupied by the army of the fascist Slovak state at the

beginning of World War II, thus solving old Slovak-Polish territorial disputes. It was logical then that this territory be returned to Poland after World War II.

It is therefore logical that the demand of Michal Kovac raised last week cannot be met.

Presidential Chancellery Reorganizes

AU0904071493 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 3 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

["pch"-signed report: Castle Trades Used BMW Cars for Mercedes]

[Excerpts] Prague—[passage omitted] Of the offers made by BMW, Volvo, and Mercedes, the Chancellery of the President chose Mercedes as the most suitable. The firm will make a straight trade of 11 new Mercedes cars for the 11 used BMW's. The chancellery will only pay partial customs and taxes. [passage omitted]

The car trade is connected with changes in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic. On 1 May the chancellery will be divided into one part providing service to the head of the state that employs approximately 130 people and two subsidized organizations, the Lany Woods Section and the Prague Castle and Lany Estate Administration and Development Section, employing a staff of 280. As recently as last year, Prague Castle had 560 employees. [passage omitted]

Personnel Changes Possible at Interior Ministry

AU0904101193 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 3 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Monika Elsikova and Milan Matejka: "The Civic Democratic Party Cannot Let Ruml Fall"]

[Text] According to the statement by Civic Democratic Party [ODS] Secretary Jaromir Piskor, "the ODS cannot let the interior minister fall." J. Piskor said this to CESKY DENIK in reaction to information provided by Czech Television that there would be personnel changes at the Interior Ministry.

Czech Television, in one of its commentaries, spoke about the upcoming coalition meeting, within whose framework new personnel issues—regarding the position of deputy interior ministers—should be solved. If Ruml is unable to "master the situation," then, according to Czech Television, his days may be numbered. The reporter of the Events and Commentaries program confirmed to CESKY DENIK that he had acquired this information in parliamentary lobbies.

CESKY DENIK has learned that the ODS and the Civic Democratic Alliance are supporting Minister Ruml. Josef Zieleniec said on Thursday [1 April], that the ODS understands the minister's complicated situation. Ivan Masek (Civic Democratic Alliance) announced at yesterday's news conference that the Civic Democratic Alliance supports the concept, practical political steps, and the management of the Interior Ministry, including Minister Ruml, whom he appreciates particularly for his merit in "dispersing the State Security". According to Masek, the strongest criticisms can be heard from those who were forced to leave the interior ministry. "It would be much more interesting if we had a list of those who had left the ministry, and if we could publish who their current employers are," the Civic Democratic Alliance deputy said.

Christian Democratic Party Chairman Vaclav Benda is of the opinion that at the moment it is not necessary to pass opinion on the matter. The Christian Democratic Party, however, had critical remarks toward the security policy, particularly as regards the incomplete purge of the former cadres at the Interior Ministry.

The daily MLADA FRONTA DNES began attacking Jan Ruml. They are accusing the minister, among other things, of having sold a house at no. 5 Wenzig Street, to the Housing Cooperative AREA, whose members are former employees of the Interior Ministry. The most important piece of information was provided to MLADA FRONTA DNES by Oldrich Dajbych, former director of the Interior Ministry Office under Minister La'.gos. He does not work at the ministry any longer. MLADA FRONTA DNES also published statements by deputy Zdenek Seifer (Liberal Social Union), who criticized J. Ruml for having surrounded himself with former Sate Security members. Minister Ruml has repeated several times this week that a post-November employee of the Interior Ministry, Frantisek Filous, is the chief of his secretariat, and his deputy, Albert Cerny, is a former Federal Assembly deputy—and political prisoner and signatory of Charter 77. Secretary Daniela Svobodova worked as a typist at 12th administration of the Bratislava National Security Corps for one year, and another former State Security employee in Ruml's secretariat, Jan Belicek—who has been screened several times—is sorting mail.

Meciar Discusses Economic Ties With Ukraine

AU0804110893 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Topical interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by Vitaliy Portnykov; place and date not given: "The Slovak Prime Minister Is Going To Come to Kiev on a Visit"]

[Text] Today Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar is one of the most prominent political figures of Eastern Europe, because owing to his personal efforts, a new independent state has appeared on the continent's map. As is known, the division of the former Czechoslovakia into two sovereign republics gave rise to contradictory assessments in the world. Mr. Meciar himself is confident that time is proving the expediency of that step.

[Portnykov] How do you, Mr. Prime Minister, see the prospects for the development of contacts between Slovakia and its neighbors?

[Meciar] Europe has ceased to be divided into alliances as a result of the events of recent years. However, economic contacts have remained. One of the main reasons for the decline in the economy of eastern European countries is the loss of ties and of the market in the East. Of course, the process of reforms consists of three stages—political, economic, and social reforms. It is precisely now that we see a possibility to proceed from politics to restoring economic ties. However, new economic incentives must emerge.

[Portnykov] Observers often predict that Slovakia will have special relations with the Russian Federation. In this connection, how are Slovakia's relations with Ukraine going to develop? Incidentally, do you not think that the present relations between the Czech and Slovak republics resemble, to a certain extent, the model of relations between Russia and Ukraine?

[Meciar] One should not ignore the experience of our separation from the Czech Republic. However, we do not force anyone to assimilate that experience. A Western diplomat told me that it is like a virus. That resolving such problems quietly may also inspire others.

Oil is flowing to us, via Ukraine, from the Russian Federation, several million tonnes every year. Across our territory 55 billion cubic meters of gas is transported to Western Europe. Slovakia has one of the largest "dry-land ports"—the Cirna nad Tisou station. Ties also exist in the sphere of machine building and chemical production. We see now that those enterprises that we used to cooperate with are not functioning, which is also the case with our enterprises.

Therefore, Slovakia may play a positive role here—both in the East-West direction and vice versa. It is also advantageous for us. Nor should one ignore Slovakia's geopolitical situation. We are located at the geometrical center of Europe. Slovakia has common borders with all states of the Visegrad group and also with Austria—in the direction toward the European Community.

[Portnykov] How has the separation from the Czech Republic affected the economic situation in your country?

[Meciar] The economic crisis in Slovakia existed even when it was a part of the federated state. In the conditions of identical economic transformations, we had dissimilar results. In Slovakia the decline of production was about one-third, open unemployment constituted 13 percent, and the indebtedness of enterprises was greater than 60 billion korunas. When we achieved political independence, we did everything to maintain a common market. Certainly, economic rules are beginning to function on that market. Slovakia is regulating prices in the direction of raising them, because they used to be unrealistic. Enterprises are limiting unnecessary export and beginning to cooperate with those enterprises and organizations that are closest to them. The total commodity circulation is decreasing, but, for the first time in its history, Slovakia has achieved a surplus in export over import in its relations with the Czech Republic. Slovakia and the Czech Republic have also divided their currencies.

The more time that passes, the more convinced I become that the division was worthwhile.

[Portnykov] Maybe you will make a visit to Kiev soon?

[Meciar] Ukraine is also a transit country. Transit brings profit. If transit is put in doubt, the oil and gas systems pipelines will shift northward. Slovakia is interested in maintaining all gas mains and all oil pipelines and in extending them in the direction of Austria and Italy.

We stated in Moscow that we want to maintain good relations [with Russia]. We are also going to make a similar statement in Kiev. We would be very pleased if we could sign an agreement between three countries—Ukraine, Slovakia, and Russia—on joint actions regarding oil, gas, and transport in a western direction.

[Portnykov] You are answering political questions very diplomatically, concentrating on the economic dimension of the situation....

[Meciar] The postsocialist political sphere is the same in almost all countries. Just some accents differ.

[Portnykov] You also speak with caution about relations with the Czech Republic. Your newspapers make sharper statements—precisely for that reason, I drew an analogy between the relations between Slovakia and the Czech Republic and between Ukraine and Russia....

[Meciar] After all, we tried to create a common market, but prior to that, we signed a customs declaration and divided the currency. At present, ties between branches are being replaced by territorial ties. That is why tension in economic relations will persist, but it can be overcome. For example, we can definitely recommend the clearing system of relations that exists between Slovakia and the Czech Republic to other countries.

Meciar Discusses Property Problems With Czechs

LD0904171893 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Weekly Interview with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by correspondent Magda Pospisilova; date and place noit given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Pospisilova] According to Finance Minister Toth it will not be possible to sign the agreement on the division of Czechoslovak federal property by 15 April. Another date was mentioned—23 April. However, Czech Transport Minister Jan Strasky has said on several occasions that Slovakia does not want to reach any agreement or hold more talks. You said that you will never sign such agreements. In this light, how realistic is the date of 23 April?

[Meciar] Why should we set any deadlines. This is not a race. [passage omitted] We have clearly told the Czech side to stop putting pressure on us. They should resolve the issue of holders of investment coupons, instead of taking revenge on the citizens just because the Czech Government is pursuing politics that do not lead to an agreement with Slovakia, including the citizens of the Czech Republic. The issue of gold should be resolved and Slovakia should receive what belongs to it. We received reassurances that the signed agreements are valid, but we have not received any gold. The problem of payments for the gas pipeline should be resolved. They should stop putting pressure on the state border since the issue is not that we must introduce a standard border for the reasons they give. That reasoning is irrelevant.

Let us talk about cooperation in general and within its framework also about the settlement of property claims. But there cannot be only one principle—I am busy trying to get money from you and you are busy trying to get money from me. We say honestly: here are the assets of the Slovak side, the known-how of the central bodies like the Foreign Ministry, the bank, the Defense Ministry. All this know-how has remained in the Czech lands. And it has a financial value expressed in korunas. Using the Czechoslovak flag as a Czech flag also has a value in korunas. Moreover, this is at odds with all political agreements and with the law. In this case it is clear that this partner is not bothering to adhere to agrements.

We want to know how much this will cost. The Czechs have gained more assets by acquiring the territory and the raw materials of the Tesin area and Silesia. We are interested in these assets because they were gained in return for Slovak territories. Recently, I heard a statement by one of the leading Czech politicians and found out that he did not learn his history properly.

[Pospisilova] Do you mean Prime Minister Klaus?

[Meciar] I do not mention names, but in any case there are three periods and three steps and to put Slovakia in the same context as the Germans—well, I guess that is a bit of a joke, so that at least minimal knowledge of history should suffice for us to take up a qualified attitude. Then I am not surprised that (?he) did not know what is involved. That is why the Slovak side is giving this. There was one variant here that when we take this into account, the Slovaks are willing to drop their demands and go to zero. [passage omitted]

Moreover, there are so many gaps in the accounting of the Czechoslovak State Bank that only a brief conversation between Mr. Kocarnik and our Minister Toth has led to its being 4.5 billion [currency not specified] less in a few minutes' time. So what are we talking about? That I should sign this and burden the citizens of this country with taxes which they will pay for claims for which they are not responsible? That cannot be done.

[Pospisilova] You mentioned the zero option. The Czech prime minister, however, said that he heard about it for the first time from the Slovak side and that it was,perhaps, a joke. What is the chance of an agreement?

[Meciar] Let him take it seriously and let them pay us the rest.

Meciar Stresses Churches' Role in Easter Address

LD1104203293 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 1710 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Regular nationwide television address by Premier Vladimir Meciar—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] A pleasant holiday evening, esteemed fellow citizens. [passage omitted]

Please allow me to announce to you that the government and Defense Ministry of the Slovak Republic are drafting a bill that will allow the boys to cut their national military service to one year. If such a law is adopted it will mean that those serving longer will return home earlier and the new conscripts will start their service on four dates throughout the year.

Military service is not only a matter of honor and responsibility. It is also said that, to some extent, serving in the military means becoming a man.

To sum it up, the boys will take up their military service on four dates. The boys now doing their military service will have an opportunity to meet close family members as well as friends in the shortest possible time. We will seek the earliest possible adoption of the law.

Easter holidays are above all religious holidays. In every period, whether we called them spring holidays or otherwise, they are holidays which signify both death and resurrection. A society which wants to make progress must concern itself with all questions, not merely with bread but also with spiritual matters, morality and the state of affairs in which it finds itself. Improving the

health of society is therefore a complicated process in which it is precisely the churches which occupy an irreplaceable role—churches which are playing an enormous part in education, social programs, teaching, and science.

It is inadmissible for any political party to claim the church. The church belongs to all believers regardless of what political view they hold. The state therefore must seek a form of coexistence with the church in order to eliminate old mistakes.

In the field of legislation many things have changed; nonetheless there is a great deal to be changed. This involves, above all, property issues. The state must seek a way of rectifying past wrongs when church property was confiscated, nationalized, and used for other purposes at variance with all principles of ethics and morality.

There are of course a number of churches in Slovakia. Their fate was not the same. The fate of the Jewish religious community was different, and one also needs to respect this fact. [passage omitted]

Naturally, to talk about the church is a very complicated question because rehabilitation of the church also implies tackling the issue of its position in the future. We are against any interference by the state in church affairs. We are in favor of the complete independence of church life, for complete freedom for believers. This is why we hold the view that we will conclude an agreement about relations between the state and the church with pastoral fathers, with father bishops, which will then reach the National Council in the form of a law so that churches have a guarantee that the state will not interfere in their mission and that on the contrary it will facilitate that mission and indeed help the churches to develop it.

Naturally, when talking about church issues we must also take into consideration its influence on other aspects of life. Above all, this involves the educational sphere. [passage omitted]

We consider it necessary to start ethics lessons at schools from 1 September this year. Speaking about ethics lessons, our understanding is that those who are believers would receive religious lessons instead of ethics lessons, be it directly at the schools they attend, be it—in the case of smaller churches—at earmarked places. [passage omitted]

The questions of institutions of higher learning are very important to us. [passage omitted] An effort was made at one time, which somewhat missed its effect, to set up a Christian university in Slovakia. The government will support the founding a Christian university. [passage omitted]

Council of Europe Admission Expected in June

AU0904141093 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 8 Apr 93 p 3

[TA SR report: "To the Council of Europe, Perhaps in June"]

[Text] Bratislava—In the process of examining the Slovak Republic's application for admission as a full member to the Council of Europe, no significant deterrents have been discovered. Erik Harremoes, director of the Council of Europe Legislative Section, said this at a meeting with the press in Bratislava yesterday.

He documented this, among other things, by the report of a deputy of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the state of the legislation in Slovakia he has in his possession, and which contains just three minor observations on the legislative norms of the Slovak Republic. One concerns the problem of minority rights, and asks for greater flexibility in the registration of first names of the citizens of Hungarian nationality and marking the names of cities and communities in the language of the minority. The other two notes are of procedural character in the implementation of the Criminal Code.

Erik Harremoes commended that part of the Slovak Republic Constitution is, in the area of human rights, evidently inspired by the Human Rights Convention adopted by the Council of Europe.

He pointed out that the document of the Council of Europe has two dimensions because the rights, too, have their limits, and introduce some obligations for the citizen. "In the balance of rights and obligations, a complete protection of the individual must be achieved so that neither dictatorship nor chaos rule in society," Harremoes said. He expects that the process of examination of the Slovak Republic's application for the admission to the Council of Europe will progress at such a pace that it could be admitted as full member in June, at the same time as the Czech Republic.

Central Bank Urged To Release Funds

AU0904124093 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Martin Hric, Marcela Kostalova: "Money (Only) in the First Place; The Slovak Government Was in Session"]

[Excerpts] Bratislava— The most important item on the agenda of yesterday's government meeting was the "Analysis of the Present Situation Within the Department of the Slovak Ministry of Economy and Proposed Improvement Measures," which was submitted by Minister Jaroslav Kubecka.

The material contains demands for the implementation of rapid consolidation measures in selected enterprises

within the department's jurisdiction that could contribute to a distinct economic recovery later this year. The government recommended to the Slovak National Bank to release, in accordance with the monetary plan, the necessary resources (8.03 billion Slovak korunas) and to take other steps in the interest of maintaining the internal convertibility of the Slovak koruna and speeding up privatization.

In view of the unfavorable state and development of the security situation, the government approved the proposal to establish the Slovak Government Council for Crime Prevention, its statutes, and its composition. The Council, which has 24 members from various government departments, will be chaired by Interior Minister Jozef Tuchyna. [passage omitted]

Replying to reporters' doubts about the Slovak Republic having achieved surplus in its balance of foreign trade, Finance Minister Julius Toth presented the Central Customs Administration's report for January and February. Imports to the Slovak Republic amounted to 8.024 billion Slovak korunas and exports represented 12.535 billion Slovak korunas. [passage omitted]

Law on Officials' Salaries Returned to Parliament

AU0904113393 Prague CTK in English 1818 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 7 (CTK)—Slovak President Michal Kovac has returned a law to the Slovak parliament on salaries and compensations for representatives of the legislative and executive power, which was approved by the parliament March 25.

Kovac announced this at his meeting with judges of Slovakia's Supreme Court today.

The law provides for a pay raise that would give deputies a monthly salary of 14,700 Slovak crowns (about 500 USD), three times that of an average skilled industrial worker. The president's salary was set at 68,800 Slovak crowns a month (about 2,000 USD).

Before meeting with the judges, Kovac was informed by Supreme Court President Karel Plank of the current problems in Slovakia's courts.

Plank said that the current shortage of judges is directly linked with their salaries.

Slovak Justice Minister Katarina Tothova, who was present at Kovac's meeting with Plank, said that Slovak courts were not done for as compared with the Czech Republic. Plank noted, however, that Czech judges' salaries had already been raised and the posts of judges had mostly been filled.

Information Director To Be Named 12 April

AU0904124593 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 8 Apr 93 p 1

[TA SR report: "Who Will Fill the Post of the Director of the Slovak Information Service?"]

[Text] In an interview for TA SR yesterday, Roman Kovak, deputy prime minister of the Slovak Government, confirmed that Slovak President Michal Kovac has rejected the proposal by Prime Minister Meciar to appoint Ivan Lexa director of the Slovak Information Service. According to him, a letter containing this decision of the president was delivered to Meciar on Monday [5 April].

Kovak also said that the Slovak Government had considered this issue at its meeting on Tuesday [6 April]. The government had decided that the problems with the establishment of this institution must be solved in the very near future, and a specific decision is likely to be adopted at the next meeting.

Speculation about the fact that Roman Zelenay should be the candidate are based—according to Kovak—on a misunderstanding of the original intention, according to which Zelenay would take over the post of the chief of the Government's Office if Lexa were appointed director of the Slovak Information Service. "I cannot confirm that Zelenay will become the Slovak Information Service director," added Kovak.

Meciar, after a meeting of the For a Democratic Slovakia Movement's Political Board, said that the name of the new candidate would be known on Monday [12 April] or Tuesday.

HZDS Leadership Meets, Admits Mistakes

AU0904141293 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 8 Apr 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "They Even Admit Mistakes"]

[Text] Bratislava—The Political Board of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] met in Bratislava yesterday with Vladimir Meciar as the chair to discuss the general political, economic, and social situation in Slovakia, the HZDS' position in the wake of the movement's assembly, and its immediate tasks. It also discussed the system of further steps in preparing talks with the other parliamentary parties.

Members of the Political Board evaluated the present economic and social situation in Slovakia as difficult, but "the HZDS expected such a development even before the elections," HZDS Deputy Chairman Roman Zelenay told Slovak Television and the TA SR after the meeting, among other things. He conceded that the government had made some mistakes in its decisions, but added that only he who does not do anything does not make any mistakes. What matters is to make right the mistakes when they occur and speak about them frankly, he said.

Private Sector Growth Reported in February

AU1004191693 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 8 Apr 93 p 3

["mik"-signed report: "The Growth of the Private Sector"]

[Text] "The decline of production did not stop in February." This is what the director of the Slovak Statistical Office, Engineer Rudolf Krc, said at a news conference yesterday. In both state-owned enterprises and cooperatives, there was lower output. In private companies there was the opposite trend, but private enterprises represent only 17.3 percent of industrial production. In retail trade privatization is more visible as private entrepreneurs represent 71.9 percent. In the construction industry 44.9 percent of output is produced by private companies, and there was recovery in the construction industry in February. In developed economies the construction industry is an indicator of economic development as it reacts very quickly. Compared with January, output rose 3.5 percent in February. Compared with the same period last year, output declined 25.4, so the increase in construction production must not be overestimated. There are other factors, for example. We still have to wait for a more serious analysis.

Regarding the state budget, at the end of February there was a deficit of 1.5 billion Slovak korunas. Trade is developing positively. Here, we have a surplus. In the first two months of this year, goods and services worth 11.1 billion korunas were imported into Slovakia, but exports reached 12.5 billion. Slovakia also has a trade surplus with the Czech Republic (some 300 billion korunas).

Inflation slowed. In January consumer prices rose 8.9 percent. This can be explained by the introduction of the value added tax. In February prices rose only 1.6 percent. Unemployment worsened, reaching 11.8 percent. The crisis in agriculture also is worsening. The number of cattle declined, as did milk production. The number of poultry and sheep increased, which can be ascribed to the season, however.

Finally, there is one somewhat shocking statistic. Output is declining but consumption is rising, according to the data! This anomaly could also be explained by the effect of the shadow economy, untaxed jobs, etc. In the United States and advanced European countries, they estimate the shadow economy at 30 percent. What is its percentage in Slovakia?

Official Says Austrian EFTA Restrictions Unacceptable

AU0804174693 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 8 (AFP)—Hungary attacked Austria Thursday [8 April] for restrictions on eastern European industrial imports and warned that Hungarian countermeasures were "not impossible."

Istvan Major, deputy state secretary at the ministry of international economic relations, told the daily NEPSZABADSAG that neither the price, nor other export conditions of Hungarian products warranted such "mental warfare."

"It seems that a bloc attitude is being revived in Austria, which is unacceptable for Hungary", Major said pointing to Austrian restrictions on cement, steel, artificial fertiliser and agricultural machinery imports.

Hungary did not understand Austria's introduction of quotas to restrict trade because "the ink has not even dried" on a free trade agreement recently signed between Hungary and the countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

"Hungary had expected that the agreement would boost bilateral trade", Major said.

A bilateral agreement on agricultural exports from Hungary to Austria was the only condition to the signature of the EFTA document.

Meanwhile, Austria Thursday joined a one-month European Community ban on eastern European imports of live cows, sheep, goats and meat and milk derivatives due to foot-and-mouth disease spreading in Italy from Croatian meat imports.

Government Protests EC Ban

LD0904143093 Budapest MTI in English 1341 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 9 (MTI)—In a memorandum to European Community headquarters in Brussels on Friday, the Hungarian Government protested against an EC embargo on meat and dairy products from eastern Europe.

The memorandum says the EC measures are unfounded regarding Hungarian produce, and calls for an end to the ban as soon as possible.

Further, it proposes the EC-Hungarian joint committee should hold talks on the problem on April 16 or 19. Hungary suggests the dates because the EC Permanent Veterinary Hygiene Commission will hold its next session on April 20, Hungary's International Economic Relations State Secretary Endre Jzuhasz said.

EC Trucks Turned Back

LD0904194693 Budapest MTI in English 1840 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 9 (MTI)—Hungarian border guard authorities had turned back 40 lorries carrying live animals, and meat and dairy products from the country's borders by late Friday afternoon.

The Hungarian Government introduced an import ban on live animal, meat, milk and meat and dairy products from EC countries and Austria, which came into effect on Thursday.

According to information from the national headquarters of the customs and excise guard, 26 deliveries were turned back at Rajka (sw Hungary). The lorries were delivering live bulls, and joghurt and cream from Germany to Croatia and Italy.

The customs guard reported that mainly transit deliveries were trying to enter into Hungary on Friday.

Hungarian customs guards turned back six shipments at Hegyeshalom (w Hungary), and two at Vamosszabadi. The former were mainly German beef deliveries, the latter milk, formula and butter.

At Salgotarjan, two Greek lorries were turned back on Friday morning, and three others during the day by border guards. These were carrying Danish frozen beef, cheese and ice cream to Hungary.

A Croatian lorry was turned back at Rabafuzes, which intended to deliver pork and beef from Germany to Croatia.

Hungarian customs guards denied entry to one delivery at Nagylak, which would have transited Hungary with its shipment of lamb.

Statement on Polish Ban

LD1104155193 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] The Hungarian Government considers it ungrounded and disapproves of Poland's order of an import and transit ban on meat and livestock deliveries from Hungary. The Polish Government joined similar EC measures yesterday.

The Hungarian Government's statement stresses that, although the meat and livestock deliveries from Poland are checked increasingly at Hungarian border crossings, if they meet requirements they will be allowed to enter the country. The Government would like to achieve through diplomatic means Poland's exemption of Hungary from the ban. Until then, however, it has taken measures that deliveries under the ban not leave the territory of the country.

Slovak Parliamentarians Comment on Visit

LD0904075593 Prague CTK in English 1806 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest April 8 (CTK correspondent)—Ivan Gasparovic and Gyorgy Szabad, chairmen of the Slovak and Hungarian parliaments, today characterised their talks here as substantive and successful.

Speaking with CTK at the close of a three-day visit to Hungary by a Slovak parliamentary delegation, Gasparovic and Szabad said their talks had contributed to strengthening mutual confidence.

Gasparovic said that upon returning to Bratislava he would ask Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar to speed up preparations for his meeting with Hungarian Premier Jozsef Antall.

He said he considered it very important that the two countries' parliamentary committees dealing with the controversial Gabcikovo hydroelectric project on the Danube had agreed on the programme of their consultations. Their first meeting is to take place in May, Gasparovic added.

Speaking on the problem of ethnic minorities, another contentious point troubling Slovak-Hungarian relations, Gasparovic said that we are aware that not everything is all right. These questions will have to be solved more resolutely, he added.

Slovakia's Hungarian minority numbers 580,000 people, out of the republic's five million overall population. Hungary is rather critical about the observance of the rights of its enthnic minority in Slovakia, but this criticism has as yet been rejected by Slovakia as groundless.

The Slovak delegation ended their official visit later in the day and left for home.

Promise To Amend Law on Names

AU0904161393 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 8 Apr 93 pp 1, 13

[Dispatch from Julius Loerincz: "The Borders Are Unchangeable But...; Second Day of Slovak Parliamentary Delegation's Visit to Hungary"]

[Excerpts] Two groups of problems, the position of ethnic minorities and the question of borders, were discussed yesterday at each meeting of the Slovak parliamentary delegation and Hungarian representatives with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, Parliament Chairman Gyorgy Szabad, Foreign Affairs Minister Geza Jeszensky, and members of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ivan Gasparovic, chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic [NRSR], said that bilingual signs denoting the names of towns and communities in ethnically mixed areas of Slovakia or areas in which the minority population is dominant should not be a problem. He added that an amendment to the law on names is being prepared so that citizens will be able to enter names in the birth registers not only in the official language, but also at their own discretion—that is, in the languages of the minorities.

During the debate on minorities at yesterday's meeting with the Hungarian Parliament chairman, little polemics arose between two members of our delegation when [NRSR Deputy Chairman] Peter Weiss said that it would be good if the demands being put forward in the name of the ethnic minorities were really the demands of the majority within the minority and not just the demands of the political elite that claims the right to speak on everyone's behalf. Istvan Harna from the Egyutteles movement reacted to this by saying that these demands were an expression of the voters' will. [passage omitted] Ivan Gasparovic repeatedly said that the problems regarding minorities and ethnic groups could only be solved in context with the general social and economic development. The two sides agreed that the minorities themselves must say whether they are satisfied with their position because otherwise everything sounds as only some kind of a political declaration.

The assurance came repeatedly from the Hungarian side yesterday that Hungary did not have territorial claims against its neighbors and that it considers the borders unchangeable, as confirmed by the international agreements concluded after World War I and World War II. Peter Weiss said that such assurances were gratifying but that we would welcome an authoritative constitutional [ustavne] statement that no one really is preparing any border changes. In the opinion of [NRSR Deputy Chairman] Jozef Prokes, this would establish an excellent basis for talks on an interstate agreement between Slovakia and Hungary. He was seconded by [Christian Democratic Movement Deputy] Ladislav Pittner who said that toying with the idea of border changes in present-day Europe was tantamount to playing with a defused bomb.

Laszlo Kovacs, chairman of the Hungarian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, voiced the assurance that there was no responsible political force in Hungary today that would seek to change the borders. In his opinion, the principle of the unchangeability of borders ought to be confirmed in treaties with neighboring states. The snag, however, is that the Hungarian Parliament has not yet ratified the treaty with Ukraine, which states that the border between the two states would not be altered in any way. [passage omitted]

Army Conducts Observation Flights Over Romania

LD0904183993 Budapest MTI in English 1523 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Budapest, April 9 (MTI)—Under a Hungarian-Romanian Open Skies Agreement, Hungary conducted observation flights over Romania between April 6 and 8.

The flights were carried out in the regions of Timisoara, Arad, Oradea, Cluj, Alba Iulia, Deva and Lugoj.

According to information received on Friday from Hungarian Foreign Ministry sources, Romania effectively helped the Hungarian Army AN-26 plane's observation flights, meeting all obligations included in the Open Skies Agreement.

Under the agreement, a response mission will soon be carried out by Romania within Hungary's airspace.

UOP Confirms Planned Assassination Attempt on Walesa

LD0904104793 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Today's ZYCIE WARSZAWY reports that State Protection Office officers [UOP] uncovered preparations for an attempt to assassinate Walesa. It quotes the UOP head, Jerzy Konieczny. Irena Popoff, the UOP press spokesperson, confirmed that the report carried by the Warsaw daily is true, but she declined to give any details.

Spokesman: Plot Report a 'Joke'

LD0904100293 Warsaw Third Program Radio Network in Polish 0900 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The president's draft constitution will be submitted to the Sejm by the end of this month, Lech Falandysz, deputy head of the President's Chancellery said today. Falandysz, commenting on today's press reports that in the early hours of Thursday morning, State Protection Office officers neutralized preparations for an assassination attempt against Lech Walesa, said that he knew nothing about it. A report about the assassination attempt was published by ZYCIE WARSZAWY, quoting Jerzy Konieczny, head of the State Protection Office. Andrzej Drzycimski, the president's spokesman, called the reports on this matter a good joke.

Poland Bans Imports of EC Meat

LD0904154193 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] A ban on imports of meat from the European Communities states was announced today in Warsaw. It is in retaliation for a similar EC position on Polish products. An Agriculture Ministry decree came into force at midday today. Similar restrictions have been introduced by Hungary.

Suchocka, Businessmen Sign Privatization Letter

LD0804204993 Warsaw PAP in English 1454 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 8:—Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and Privatisation Minister Janusz Lewandowski on Thursday met with representatives of Polish business circles to sign a letter of intent in which the ministry "declared its will for a rapid and large scale implementation of the project of privatisation of state enterprises by selling shares by instalments." The project has been drawn up by businessmen.

Suchocka said after the meeting that "the representatives of entrepreneurs endorsed the mass privatisation programme and the road of changes Poland has taken."

Justice Minister Gives First News Conference

AU1004145093 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 7 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Katarzyna Kesicka: "A Million Cases for the Prosecutor"]

[Text] Various people involved in politics are seeking to influence the investigations being conducted by prosecutors," said Justice Minister Jan Piatkowski (Christian-National Union) at his first news conference, which was held yesterday. As an example, he cited a visit to the ministry by a group of Center Accord deputies, who intended to intervene on behalf of Wojciech D. (arrested on charges of patronage payments), but were unable to see the minister.

The minister announced that political activity will not provide a pretext for avoiding criminal liability, and he will not permit political pressure to be applied on the prosecution service.

He noted, however, that "if, for example, President Walesa is interested in a case, then the minister will provide him with information on the subject."

Last year, of its own accord, the prosecution service initiated investigations into 6,000 economic crimes. The worst area was banking. There were 36 cases and losses (excluding the Art-B affair) of 561 billion zlotys. The most serious cases involved obtaining loans by deception through presenting falsified documents confirming that a firm was in good financial shape or had connections with bank officials.

"Often, proof of corruption on the part of officials cannot be found as is the case with proof of fiscal offenses on the part of small businesses," complained Stanislaw Iwanicki, first deputy prosecutor-general.

"Last year a million investigations were launched," said Waldemar Smardzewski, a prosecution service departmental director. He acknowledged that prosecutors in Szczecin, Kielce, Bielsko-Biala, and Lodz have been accused of corruption.

"A prosecutor in Lodz accepted a gold ring as a bribe," he stated.

Fifty policemen are suspected of corruption, 113 are accused of causing road accidents, 63 are accused of falsifying documents and committing assaults, 21 are accused of misappropriating state property, and three are accused of murder.

Altogether, proceedings have been initiated against 439 policemen, five Ministry of Internal Affairs employees, and three officers of the Office for the Protection of the State. The greatest number of such cases are in Katowice (55) and Lublin (41).

From the beginning of last year until today, the prosecutor general has lodged applications for suspending the

immunity of 14 members of parliament. Four applications have been successful. "We will shortly present four more applications. Three relate to driving under the influence of alcohol," said Smardzewski, but he declined to give any names.

Piatkowski reacted negatively to proposals made by the ombudsman for civil rights concerning amendments to the criminal code and a ban on admitting prisoners to penal institutions that are overcrowded. "One cannot talk about an alarming level of overcrowding in Polish prisons yet. Instead of frequent amendments to the old law, I would prefer the introduction of a new penal code," he said.

Janowski Explains Resignation

LD0904194893 Warsaw PAP in English 1747 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 9—Gabriel Janowski, who resigned yesterday as agriculture minister, told a press conference in Warsaw on Friday [9 April] that he had felt compelled to resign because of a lack of support from cabinet colleagues over agricultural policy. In his first comment on his resignation, Janowski said that he had encountered serious resistance from cabinet colleagues over his proposals to implement an agreed government programme for agricultural reform. He also accused Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka of failing to give him sufficient support over this.

Asked whether his party, the Peasant Agreement (PL), will now withdraw from the ruling coalition, Janowski said that the decision would rest with the PL Supreme Council, which will meet to discuss the resignation on April 16. He added that his resignation "should not have come as a surprise" to his party colleagues, since he had told a recent meeting of the PL parliamentary group that he would remain a minister only on condition that he would be able to operate effectively.

Janowski expressed surprise that, in accepting his resignation, Ms Suchocka had also dismissed deputy agricultural ministers Piotr Dabrowski and Jerzy Rey, also PL members.

On Friday morning, Hanna Suchocka appointed Janusz Bylinski as caretaker agriculture minister. In a press statement on Friday, Bylinski said that, following a conversation with Janowski, he had agreed to take control of the ministry until such time as the PL supreme council reaches a decision on its future participation in the coalition. He also expressed surprise at the dismissal of the two deputy ministers.

Later, in a statement issued by Peasant Agreement (PL) Vice-President Andrzej Luszczewski, the party said that it had received the news of the dismissals of Dabrowski and Rey with "incomprehension and surprise." PL had not been consulted, Luszczewski claimed.

However, Jerzy Kaminski, PL's surviving cabinet minister, said that he believed that, "in the course of direct discussions between the PL parliamentary floor-group and the prime minister on the controversial problems of the countryside and agriculture, we will be able to reach a satisfactory compromise solution," provided discussions over the appointment of a new agriculture minister and the problems of Polish agriculture are concluded successfully, with positive results for Poland.

Nevertheless, Janowski's resignation is seen as a serious blow to the fragile coalition government, which is currently operating without a parliamentary majority, and has recently lost several key votes in the Sejm (lower house). Stefan Niesiolowski, leader of the Christian-National Union (ZCHN) floor-group, a key party in the ruling coalition, said on Friday that the government would face serious problems if PL now abandoned the ruling coalition.

ZCHN seriously hopes that PL will remain within the coalition, Niesiolowski said.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) parliamentary floor group, agreed that the resignation points to a crisis in the coalition. In an interview on Friday with Warsaw's Radio "Zet," he claimed that there are now increasingly apparent difficulties in accommodating agricultural interests within the liberal economic conception of the coalition. It has created a very difficult situation for the prime minister and the whole ruling coalition, he said.

Interior Ministry Comments on Asylum-Seekers

AU0904141193 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 7 Apr 93 p 4

["krzem," PAP-attributed report: "Neither Vetting nor Asylum-Seekers"]

[Text] Which vetting option is supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs? "None," replied Internal Affairs Minister Andrzej Milczanowski at a news conference given yesterday by senior officials of the ministry. "I have serious doubts about the need for and the wisdom of carrying out such an operation," he added.

According to Ministry of Internal Affairs figures, 50 percent of material relating to operations and 50-60 percent of the material on people who supplied information have been destroyed. The records were unreliable. Between 1970 and 1980, Security Service operations officers entered the names of people who had never been clandestine collaborators because how an officer was assessed depended on the number of such collaborators, explained the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to Deputy Minister Jerzy Zimkowski, Poland would like a period of 6-12 months following the conclusion of a new agreement with Germany to prepare an infrastructure for receiving asylum-seekers who may be returned from the FRG. Germans want to start returning

asylum-seekers as soon as the new asylum law comes into force, which will be at midyear.

During the negotiations that are currently under way in Bonn, the two sides are to determine within what period of time a foreigner who has crossed the border illegally can still be sent back to Poland. In the Austrian agreement with Germany on readmission, the period of time is two weeks.

The extent of financial and administrative assistance to be rendered Poland is also to be defined, and finally, the actual number of asylum-seekers that Poland would have to accept in the first year is also to be set.

According to what was said by senior officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, it would appear that the absence of an infrastructure for dealing with asylum-seekers is "advantageous" for Poland because German law forbids asylum-seekers from being returned to countries in which they will not be guaranteed "appropriate conditions."

Starting in the second half of this year it will be obligatory to register invitations extended to citizens of CIS states, Bulgaria, and Romania. Deputy Minister Wlodzimierz Blajerski of the Ministry of Internal Affairs stated that amendments to the law on foreigners introducing invitations of this kind will be submitted to the Sejm in May.

During the Polish-Romanian negotiations that ended in Warsaw yesterday, it was agreed that as of 1 May, Romanians entering Poland will have to possess $20 for every day of their stay in our country.

However, the negotiations did not result in a Polish-Romanian readmission agreement. Both sides submitted drafts of such an agreement, and those will be discussed in Bucharest at the beginning of May.

The Frontier Guard reported that last year a total of 23,500 Romanian citizens were detained while seeking to illegally cross the Polish border.

Iranian Majles Speaker Ends Visit to Poland

LD0904114593 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Warsaw, April 9, IRNA—Iran's Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri wound up his 2-day official visit to Poland and left here for Zagreb, Croatia Friday morning.

Nateq-Nuri was seen off at the airport by Vice-President of Polish Parliament Kurczewski and a number of other ranking officials.

Before departing here, the Majles speaker in an interview with IRNA termed the result of his visit as "successful and fruitful."

Expansion of mutual relations as well as important regional and international issues, including the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Central Asia, were discussed between the speaker and Polish leaders. [passage omitted]

At the end of the Iranian delegation's visit to Poland a joint press communique was issued.

"Having in view the active and important role played by both parliaments in policy-making and acting in accordance with the commonly shared will to promote and enrich the existing ties between the Republic of Poland and the Islamic Republic of Iran in all domains, and also with emphasis on the importance of regular exchanges of views between the institutions concerned of both countries at various levels to discuss issues of international and regional interest, his excellency Mr. Wieslaw Chrzanowski and his excellency Mr. Nateq-Nuri affirmed their readiness to continue and expand mutual cooperation, especially between parliaments," the release said.

For this purpose, it added, both sides have decided to establish regular parliamentary contacts and to form respective parliamentary bilateral groups in both parliaments.

Both sides also affirmed their willingness to exchange views and consult each other on bilateral, international and regional issues at the level of speakers of the parliaments, foreign affairs committees and also that of the chairmen of bilateral groups.

They also agreed to work for the strengthening of the existing relations by promoting cooperation in international parliamentary organizations thereby contributing to constructive common efforts on regional and international scale.

The Iranian parliament speaker invited his Polish counterpart Chrzanowski to pay an official visit to Iran in a convenient time which was accepted.

During his visit Nateq-Nuri had two sessions with Chrzanowski and also met president Lech Walesa, Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka, and August Chelkowski, the president of the senate.

The delegation led by the speaker also had fruitful talks with their Polish counterparts.

Russia Demands Poles Stop Fishing Okhotsk Sea

LD0904225393 Warsaw PAP in English 1951 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 9—The Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday officially demanded that Polish fisherman stop fishing in international waters in the central zone of the Okhotsk Sea.

Sergey Yastrzhembskiy of the Russian Foreign Ministry said Russia would undertake firm steps to protect its interests in the Okhotsk Sea.

On Thursday, Polish Ambassador to Russia Stanislaw Ciosek, as well as the ambassadors of the People's

Republic of China and South Korea were received by Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov to discuss the problem. The Russian side proposed holding talks in Moscow in may to reach an agreement on the matter.

The Russian side argued that the continuation of fishing by the three countries in the Okhotsk Sea "may have serious social and economic consequences for the people living in the Russian Far East."

The Russians also suggested that during the negotiations, fishermen from the three countries should voluntarily suspend their fishing in the area questioned by Moscow.

Yastrzhembskiy also said that his government had asked U.S., South Korean, and Japanese authorities to impose a ban on imports of fish coming from the central region of the Okhotsk Sea.

Wladyslaw Klaczynski, director of Poland's Foreign Ministry's Press Department said on Friday that the Polish side is studying the Russian announcement.

Official Says Credits To Increase Deficit

LD1004180293 Warsaw PAP in English 1729 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Warsaw, April 10—Jan Bazyl Lipszyc, press adviser to the finance minister, called on Saturday the law of March 31 restoring the remittance of housing credits "the first decision by the Sejm since the passing of the budget that will run up the budget deficit."

According to the Construction Ministry, the law will entail some 5 billion zlotys (dlrs 303,000) of additional budgetary expenses earmarked for the remittance of credits while supporters of the act claim that the expenses will not be higher than 3 billion zlotys.

Walesa Interviewed on Army Issues

LD1104182493 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 0605 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with President Lech Walesa by reporters Jerzy Sikora and Janusz Brandys; from the Military Magazine program; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, in the last few days you have twice visited military training grounds, first in Orzysz and then in Czerwony Bor. What do you think? Does the president need such visits, visits to army ranges?

[Walesa] Now, when I look at it all, when I really take part in all this, and of course not only through these spectacular things, but also slightly differently, I have to say that the Army has remained both the best organized and the one which carries out reforms with the greatest speed, despite the fact that there, too, several people are of a different opinion. But the greatest order is there, and if other areas of our collective life understood their tasks as fully and were fulfilling them as well, then Poland today would be well advanced in its reforms.

Of course this cannot be achieved in the same way as in the Army, for it is, after all, hierarchical and it functions somewhat differently, but I think it's a shame there is no such way of doing things in society.

[Reporter] Do you see any dangers for Poland?

[Walesa] I have already said once that we have, in effect, only taken one spear. The war is not won. The world is really seeking solutions. There is a great military lobby in various parts of the world and states; that is why it wants to have conditions for developing and must have both opponents and enemies [sentence as heard]. Well, let's not kid ourselves—the world is not ideal.

And in this concept, we have to notice that it will be possible to move these pawns on the chessboard, including the Polish pawn. I would like the Poles not to allow themselves to be moved all that much and to see how things are being moved and why they are being moved.

Of course, nobody today would risk a frontal war. Today one fights in kid gloves, but kid gloves which look as nice as kid gloves on the outside but inside have a military fist. And that is why—knowing all these concepts and these aims—I will try to cooperate in such a way with the Army that we can be good and weighty pawns on this chessboard.

But at the same time, we must remember that even in an ideal world the Army will still be very necessary, for this ideal world will need force, a well organized force, because there will always be dangers, and the better the technology, the greater the dangers. Thus, the Army will be necessary; it was necessary in the old concept and it will be necessary in the new one. So let's have a serious army and let us prepare it for new tasks, let us not throw away the experience which we have, after all, gained over the decades.

[Reporter] Mr. President, you speak of the Army, but the situation is that a civilian leadership has been operating in the Ministry of Defense for some time now. There are also military structures which are subordinate to the chief of the general staff. There is also the national security office. Are you not afraid that in the future, perhaps a not too distant future, this might cause jurisdiction conflicts [spory kompetencyjne]?

[Walesa] These conflicts have already taken place; they exist and will continue for a long time yet. That is why, that is why in this transitional period we must show some imagination and some sort of long-term vision. Many politicians set everything up for themselves, and they set it up only for right here and now. But I set things up slightly differently. I set up for a more disadvantageous situation. I presuppose illwill and bad management on the part of the heads, and I prepare for such circumstances.

Thinking this way, I would like the army to remain apolitical, not to be drawn into political matches, not to allow itself to be drawn in, and to have this guaranteed by law.

Today when we are creating a civilian ministry, this is precisely a great problem, because every minister would like the Army, in its entirety, to be subordinate to him. And of course today everything is idyllic. There is good understanding between the minister, the president and the prime minister, but it does not necessarily have to be so tomorrow. If we set up the system badly, the Army could be drawn into political conflicts. That is why we are thinking about this, discussing it. At the same time, as the superior of the armed forces, I am responsible for ensuring that the professional core of the Army does not allow itself to be subordinated in such a way that it might be taken advantage of politically.

The ministry is to guarantee all these things, both political and economic, so that the Army can fulfill its duties. But professionally, it is the professional who should be responsible and the civilians should not interfere with him in these executive matters. This is the system I am striving for, and I will do everything to make it happen.

[Reporter] For many years now Polish soldiers have been carrying out peace missions within UN forces. In the present situation, given today's budget, can we afford this kind of action?

[Walesa] When I was being convinced about the necessity for this, I was being convinced from the political point of view, that we must concern ourselves about peace, that we must be active, that we have responsibilities to Europe and the world. That was one of the arguments. But the second argument was also very important. It was the argument that Poland, in the difficult situation in which it finds itself, would not incur any financial losses either. And it had even been worked out that these professional soldiers and even—or those who take greater risks than others, because they will be, are, in these after all dangerous places, that they would, after all, receive some financial compensation [sentence as heard].

That was why I agreed, because the two arguments were convincing. If today the Army has to put money into this, then I do not agree with it and I will quickly look into it, because Poland cannot afford this in these conditions, and the Army even less so, especially when it is carrying out a reorganization, when it needs much money for reorganization, we cannot afford on top of that to be losing money somewhere abroad, because first of all we have to do the sorting out in our own country.

[Reporter] Mr. President, for some time now Poland has been making efforts to get admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It seems, in spite of it all, that it is just a question of time before our state gets admitted. What do you think, should we really belong to that pact?

[Walesa] I mean, right now, if we were to consider things calmly and logically, the NATO pact has lost its logic because there is no Warsaw Pact, and it was in a sense a response to that formulation. But (?I should) say that things are not all that secure in this Europe here, and Europe as a whole has to search for its security. One could not think today about dissolving these structures, when there are a great many dangers, although perhaps slightly different in this Europe here.

And so, again, we have to strive toward an integrated European and world security. And because NATO exists in the formulation in which it does, it is better to join up than to create something new. In connection with that, in searching for the security of our fatherland and for European security we want to go along the straight road to collective security which today is called NATO, and tomorrow, as I have said, will probably have other tasks, other objectives but it will also take care of security.

[Reporter] For nearly two years now the Army has been enjoying the highest level of public confidence. As the superior of the armed forces, are you proud of this or are you perhaps jealous, since in these polls the president's office gets lower ratings?

[Walesa] No, no, as a pragmatist I think differently from others. This comes from (?various), well, sentimental causes, and there is no doubt about that. Someone from every family has served or continues to serve in the Army, in my case two sons, for example, so there is something sentimental there. But there is still another element. We are living in a time of great reforms, great chaos, and great dangers. And again helpless people, threatened people are searching for help and declaring themselves under some protective blanket. And the Army is such a blanket. So many elements influence the fact that the public, seeking its security, and at the same time connected through family links, responds like it should respond.

Of course I have entrusted my sons for a variety of reasons, above all patriotic ones, but also educational. I did my national service in the Army, I did it, and I know that I learned a great deal there, from making my bed to proper behavior and so on. And because I have not been dealing with my children for nearly 20 years, they have had no father for the specific, decisive, ordered actions. So I am counting on the Army to make up for the father who stuck his neck out for the fatherland.

[Reporter] Precisely, Mr. President, let us return to the time from more than 10 years ago when you were in the Army. I do not know whether while in the Army you had the opportunity to spend the Easter holidays right in barracks. Taking this opportunity, what would you like to say to the soldiers who, well, on this holiday, cannot go home, have to remain on duty and have to be in their units?

[Walesa] Well, I cannot remember precisely. I am sure I spent some holidays on duty and on guard duty, there is no doubt of that, although at the time I had a bit of some

sort of luck, that there was always something important happening in the family so that I was entitled to some leave. But, I say again, I must have spent some holidays on guard duty, because I remember standing with my rifle at some sort of post not far from barracks.

What would I say to soldiers who today will not be spending the holiday at home? Well, the same as I had been told. In order that some may sleep peacefully others have to be on guard. It has worked out so that today you are on guard. There was a time when I was on guard. It cannot be that the citizens' security, their peace are not being guarded. As I said, in this world we are not dealing with angels alone, many people still have horns, and that is why you are protecting and ensuring peace for others who have either done this earlier or today are fulfilling various duties or taking a rest. Such is a soldier's and citizen's lot.

'Close' Interests of Clinton, Yeltsin Noted

AU0804122593 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 5 Apr 93 p 1

[Commentary by Piotr Bazylko: "Politics and Dollars"]

[Text] The decisiveness with which Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin hurried to the Vancouver summit can only be explained by viewing the particular situation in which Russia and the United States find themselves. By scoring foreign policy successes, the leaders of the two powers want to strengthen their positions in internal conflicts. The Congress of Deputies in Russia and the U.S. Congress are presently Yeltsin and Clinton's main opponents.

"America first" was Bill Clinton's election campaign slogan. However, it turns out that to help America, one will have to help Russia. If market reforms do not succeed in Moscow, cuts in the U.S. defense budget will be impossible. Without those cuts, it will be impossible to succeed with the economic program and achieve the promised halving of the budget deficit. Taken together, all those things would have one result—Clinton losing the 1996 presidential elections.

Boris Yeltsin went to Vancouver to convince his opponents that economic assistance from the West is directly linked to his person. Only success in the negotiations will enable him to hold onto power in the conflict with the conservative parliament. Moscow needs American money, but what it needs above all is the opening up of American markets and U.S. support in the tough talks with the Group of Seven on a new economic aid package.

Both presidents traveled to Vancouver with business to sort out. Never in history have their interests been so close.

Trade Union Leader Gives Details of Warning Strike

AU0904173493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The "Fratia" Trade Union Confederation organized a news conference at the Johann Strauss Hotel in Bucharest today, our correspondent Catalin Trandafir reports. Miron Mitrea, president of the confederation, gave details of the holding of meetings and marches during a warning strike scheduled for 12 April 1993. He said that the warning strike will encompass all counties, except for Harghita and Covasna Counties. Some 20-25 buses from all over the country will arrive in Bucharest. In the capital, around 0930 local time, four convoys of heavy trucks and a convoy of taxis will begin unrolling from the following points: "BIG" [department store] Berceni, Leu, Baneasa, Casa Poporului [The People's House], and Piata Muncii [Labor Square]. They will head toward Piata Aviatorilor [Aviator's Square], where a protest rally is scheduled to start around 1130 hours.

Answering the correspondents' questions regarding participation in the rally, Mr. Miron Mitrea estimated that some 30-35,000 people and some 2,500 vehicles will take part.

Vacaroiu: Union Demands 'Impossible'

AU1004144293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] In a television interview last night, Prime Minister Vacaroiu said that under the present conditions, it is impossible to meet the demands of the trade union confederations that have withdrawn from negotiations with government representatives due to our country's clearly evident socio-economic situation: reduced output and productivity and the danger of high inflation. He called on those who intend to participate in the events launched by trade union confederations to realistically assess the imperative demands they are making. He also mentioned that the government will, by any means necessary, support those segments of the population who are at a disadvantage.

Vacaroiu also said that the government is currently moving toward implementing essential objectives: stabilizing the decline, relaunching the economy, and ensuring social protection.

In connection with the 1 May subsidy cuts, Vacaroiu said that compensations and wage indexation will lessen the effect of price increases.

Vacaroiu Forbids Use of State-Owned Vehicles in Rallies

AU0904202593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Statement by State Secretary Octavian Partenie, head of the Public Relations Department, in Bucharest on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] Following the announcements made by certain trade union confederations regarding the organization [on 12 April] of street protest actions and strikes in Bucharest and other cities of the country, during the cabinet meeting today Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu instructed the ministers of finance, industry, and justice that it is forbidden that persons should participate in those protest actions by using transport vehicles of [state-owned] companies, since those vehicles are considered production means and not transportation means that may be used for private purposes.

The unions' actions are to be organized in strict compliance with current laws. The transport vehicles may not be used to block streets or other access roads. All protest actions are to be coordinated with the competent local authorities.

Politicians Report on Trip to Moldova

AU0904140693 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 6 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Diana I. Nedelcu: "The Bessarabian Leaders Are ... Sick"]

[Text] Mircea Musat and Iuliu Ioan Furo [top officials of the Greater Romania Party—the PRM], who have recently returned home [from the Republic of Moldova], held a news conference on 2 April, briefing the journalists about the visit they made together with other members of parliament.

The news brought from Chisinau by Mircea Musat is not very comforting. "We found a very sad Bessarabia and a population which is disorientated and very much concerned about the current difficult economic situation and its own future," Musat said, and then expressed his surprise and regret that the Romanian parliamentary delegation had been avoided by the state authorities of the Republic of Moldova. "They told us that President Snegur and other official personalities were lying in hospital beds and that Parliament and the government were in session discussing extremely serious issues."

Nor could Iuliu Ioan Furo say that the results of the Malta session of the European Parliament had been more positive regarding Romania. Discussions about our country's admission to the Council of Europe had been postponed again, because [Austria's] Koenig, one of the Council of Europe rapporteurs on Romania (who at least was present in Malta, unlike the other two), did not hand in a written report on his findings, as had been previously established. One can see very well that our road to Europe is full of various obstacles.

Gherman Praises 'Consistent' FDSN Line

AU1004180593 Bucharest DIMINEATA in Romanian 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Oliviu Gherman, president of the Democratic National Salvation Front and president of the Senate: "We Have Been and Remain Faithful to the Ideals of the December 1989 Revolution; Our Strength Lies in This Consistent Line"]

[Text] [Pavelescu] Mr. Gherman, how do you assess the evolution of political pluralism in our country and what significance do you attach to it?

[Gherman] When we prepared the "22 December 1989 Declaration," a document that mentioned a return to political pluralism, few believed that this goal would be implemented. There was a kind of mental inertia at work, as well as a state of distrust, fostered by certain vested interests. Subsequent events proved that this component part of democracy truly been has achieved. As often happens in real life, from distrust one soon reaches the other extreme, going up to the creation of family parties. Hence the following conclusion: Pluralism should not be understood in the restricted sense of the existence of a large number of parties, but in terms of continual political dialogue among all political and social forces.

Despite the criticism—most of it unjustified—leveled at them, the 20 May 1990 elections gave concrete expression to pluralism and led to the creation of the first Parliament since the war in which the opposition is truly fulfilling its role vis-a-vis a very strong government party. Political life in 1991-92 unfolded within certain processes of clarification, which can have a positive impact on pluralism. Therefore, we can conclude that, from a mere desideratum, the multiparty system has become a reality, indeed, an irreversible reality.

[Pavelescu] You are the president of a party which, in the second half of last month, has celebrated merely one anniversary. In spite of all this, the Democratic National Salvation Front [FDSN] obtained the most votes in the September 1992 elections and, in the absence of the opposition's willingness to cooperate in the formation of a national unity government, the FDSN formed the government alone. Do you consider the FDSN as the main herald of the message of the December 1989 revolution?

[Gherman] In our opinion, the explanation for our success in last year's elections is due to the fact that—as it became apparent from the various reasons that led to the establishment of the FDSN—the basic ideas of the original National Salvation Front [FSN] were transferred to the new party. Aside from such matters pertaining to the party name, the FDSN actually represents the lasting nucleus of the initial group which evolved in order to put Romania on the road of political democracy and market economy. Consequently, one can say that FDSN political success actually is the success of the initial FSN idea, while the diminishing vote we received from May 1990 until September 1992 represents the price we had to pay for the difficulties generated by the transition period, and is an expression of overall wear and tear inherent to any governing exercise.

[Pavelescu] The FDSN adversaries, jealous of your success, have launched the idea that the group you are leading is less of a party and more an alliance of interests. Therefore, they have waited and are still waiting for a split. What do you have to say in this respect?

[Gherman] Our adversaries do not lack imagination. Many are waiting for this to happen. In the meantime, we proved that we have enough strength and prestige to put together the only coherent blueprint for stopping the economic decline. We have also achieved international credibility to the extent that Romania will soon be accepted as a full member in the Council of Europe. We are among those who are doing all they can to turn well-meaning statements into facts. We are building the country's face at the end of this millennium and the start of a new millennium. We know that life is hard, but we have the hope and determination to ensure growing prosperity for this country.

[Pavelescu] Which is the main strength of your party?

[Gherman] Our full commitment for strengthening the state of law and democracy in Romania and a readiness to directly tackle the problems pertaining to the transition to the market economy.

[Pavelescu] What is your weak point?

[Gherman] The weak point resulted from organizational deficiencies. There is a logical explanation for these shortcomings. All our party members are busy with lots of problems and activities arising from the governing task. In these circumstances, it is difficult to find time for solving organizational matters. We will eliminate this shortcoming and structure the party better in general and each component part in particular.

[Pavelescu] Will the FDSN fulfill its mandate to the end?

[Gherman] Yes, it will.

[Pavelescu] In this respect, certain people have insinuated that the FDSN does not have a strategy.

[Gherman] In Parliament I heard certain people expressing the idea that there are inconsistencies and discrepancies between the FDSN campaign platform and government policy. In truth, any unbiased person cannot fail to note the natural connection between certain concepts that are pursued step by step. We can still assert that each document we present is still a new generation of the same original family of ideas.

We have been and remain faithful to that declaration that appeared on our political scene in 1989 and which gives us the strength to perpetuate and renew the spirit of the revolution, which freed Romania from the suffocating pressure of totalitarianism and placed it along the road of true democracy. Our strength lies in this consistent line.

Gherman Denies Alleged Altercation With Nastase

AU0904120593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0947 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 9/4/1994—Oliviu Gherman, the president of the National Democratic Salvation Front [FDSN], President of Romania's Senate, rejected information about a "serious disagreement" with Adrian Nastase, the vice-president of FDSN and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, in an interview with CRONICA ROMANA newspaper.

"Not only the personal but even conceptual relations are excellent, there is not any kind of conflict. ... If we refer to the party activity, this must be transferred slowly, slowly toward the youth. ... Mr. Nastase is a thoroughbred politician, an intelligent man and, whatever political development may be, I will be one of those who support him, as I am sure that I would do a beneficial act for the country," Mr. Gherman stated.

Referring to the general situation of the FDSN, Senator Gherman said that two actually organized parties within the party [as received] are out of question, but he admitted the existence of a "dispute of opinions" and of a "sort of intolerance which can be found within every party."

FSN To Hold Extraordinary Convention 28-29 May

AU0904193993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting of the Steering Collegium of the National Salvation Front [FSN] took place at Ilie Nastase Club in Bucharest today. The proceedings were opened by Mr. Petre Roman, who presented the Front's positions regarding the domestic and international political situation. In this respect, Mr. Roman referred to the censure motion, government strategy, and constitutionality of the appointment of prefects in Harghita and Covasna Counties. In conclusion, Mr. Petre Roman launched an appeal on behalf of the Steering Collegium to find capable people to join the FSN in searching for optimal solutions to take the country out of the crisis.

Messrs. Ion Aurel Stoica and Adrian Severin then talked about the FSN Parliamentary Group's activity, while Mr. Radu Berceanu presented a report on the activity of the FSN Executive Bureau. Another speaker, Mr. Eugen Dijmarescu, proposed the organization of a special parliamentary session to discuss the Roman and Stolojan governments.

It was announced that Mr. Caius Traian Dragomir's resignation has been accepted. He was replaced as vice president in charge of the Foreign Policy Department by Mr. Victor Bostinaru, who until now was a party secretary.

According to the program, the meeting also clarified certain matters pertaining to the rules for regional reorganization.

At the end of the proceedings, the Collegium decided that the extraordinary FSN national convention will be held in Constanta on 28-29 May.

Vacaroiu, Negritoiu Seek Support for Reform

AU1004180393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1554 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 10/4/1993—A meeting debating the implementation of the reform in the province was organized by the Prefecture of Prahova County at Sinaia, in the presence of prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and other high officials. Misu Negritoiu, head of the Economic Council for Economic Coordination, Strategy and Reform, presented the cabinet's outlook on social welfare and insisted on the need that every state-owned company applied the programme of economic and social reform. However he underlined that macroeconomic stability was a prerequisite for its success. To substantiate, he pleaded for the necessity of certain monetary and credit policies that could enable the government harness inflation and even reduce it.

State Minister Dan Mircea Popescu, in charge of labour and welfare informed that, in order to make welfare policies better understood, the government intended to open public debates on the bills for social assistance and pensions. He explained why the new retirement law could only become effective in January 1995 at the earliest.

Premier Vacaroiu in his turn invited the participants to openly voice their opinions about local conditions and the way they think the executive should assist them during the transition period, especially in restructuring and privatisation actions.

National Bank Governor Discusses Reform Issues

AU1104174193 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with National Bank Governor Mugur Isarescu by Gh. Cercelescu; place and date not given: "Today the Leu Is Not Worth the Paper It Is Printed On"]

[Text] [Cercelescu] Mr. Governor, two very difficult things are approaching: the reduction in the last subsidies on 1 May and the introduction of the value added tax [VAT] on 1 July. What is going to happen to the leu? Can it resist the strong pressure which it will face?

[Isarescu] Indeed, 1993 is the year of the last hurdle. The efforts to correct remaining imbalances in the economy, including efforts linked to the fact that the leu is still overvalued, have to be grouped, in my view, within a limited time frame. The precarious period determined by the adjustment of prices should not be stretched out

too much because it can cause a change in atmosphere and behavior. People have already begun to believe that inflation is a permanent phenomenon. As far as the leu is concerned, we have examined the main factors that could contribute to stabilizing its exchange rate. What conclusion have we arrived at? If we are going to focus on a firm anti-inflation policy that will tackle the problem of expenses both at the level of the economy in general and at that of enterprises with great losses, then the leu rate may begin to stabilize in early fall.

[Cercelescu] Today the leu is not worth the paper it is printed on compared to its value in 1953, and after the end to subsidies it will probably be worth even less. Have you not thought of dropping two zeros?

[Isarescu] For what purpose? The Italians considered this, but encountered two obstacles. One was erected by those who did not understand that they would no longer be millionaires, and the other by those who did not want to get confused by decimal fractions. In any case, this is not the way to solve our economic problems.

[Cercelescu] What other way is there?

[Isarescu] By combating inflation. The rate of a currency is the price of prices. It has to follow the development of the other prices. This winter in our country, inflation exceeded 10 percent per month. Can we put a lid on a pot where inflation is boiling?

[Cercelescu] Last year the National Bank declared inflation to be public enemy number one. Nevertheless, prices have increased 200 percent. Why?

[Isarescu] To control inflation, one has to attack its source. In our country, enterprises with substantial losses and whose production goes mainly into inventory are the main source of our inflation and of our uneven foreign trade balance. After 1989, industrial production decreased by half while imports continued at the same level, namely some $5 billion annually. Where are these imports if not in inventory, which, each year, totaled 20-25 percent of the gross domestic product? In 1993, we should cut back on imports to a certain extent. According to one estimate, the trade deficit will not exceed $300 million, while according to another, it will not exceed $600-800 million. This is especially because of the fact that this year we will have two very important restrictions. The first is the reestablishment of the hard currency reserve that will absorb a large amount of foreign financing. The second is linked to the payment of interest rates for credits received previously.

[Cercelescu] Covering trade deficits with foreign loans has led to an accumulation of debts. Now we have to seek ways and means to pay them back because almost all of these credits have been used for consumption. Was it not possible to even out the trade balance without foreign financing?

[Isarescu] Let us see what foreign financing means in our case. In 1992 it was $1.5 billion, which represents some 7 percent of GNP [gross national product]. In other words, last year we used 7 percent more than we produced. Viewed from another angle, foreign financing also means 30 percent of exports and 27 percent of imports. Exports increased last year, but too little—some $300 million—compared with what we need in order to cover imports. What else could we have done? Reduce imports to the level of exports. Was that possible? In 1993, foreign financing equaled our crude oil imports or exceeded imports of consumer goods for the population, including wheat, sugar, and meat, by 7-8 percent. Any cut in imports hurts. Aside from this, we have to keep chain reactions in mind. The share of imports in our GNP is some 25 percent. Thus the reduction of one import unit leads to the disappearance of one fourth of the GNP. According to our calculations, reducing imports to the level of exports would have caused—due to chain reactions—an additional 10-15 percent reduction of outputs and would have doubled the inflation rate and the number of unemployed.

[Cercelescu] What will happen this year, when just a small amount of foreign financing is going to be used to even out the trade balance?

[Isarescu] This year we will directly go to the source of imbalances in the economy—enterprises operating with great losses that have to be isolated, that is, removed from the balance sheet of banks and financed through other means. Companies encountering problems are public property, and we have to know exactly how much they cost us to keep them operating. Covering up losses with the help of the banks has led to financial blockages that endangered even the competitive, productive areas of the economy. At the same time, it is necessary for the appropriate enterprises to join rehabilitation programs. A certain level of resources should be made available to them to the extent that their managements prove that they are able to put them on their feet. This is a tough method, but this is how we are treated as a country. Who will grant any credits today if no results are achieved? I am convinced that if we act this way our chances of combating inflation and eliminating domestic and foreign deficits will be very good.

Prime Minister Vacaroiu Visits Giurgiu Shipyard

AU0904113593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0843 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 9/4/1993—Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu visited the Giurgiu shipyard—Giurgiu County—where he analyzed the economic and financial situation of that economic unit with traditions in making ships and machine-tools for agriculture. A project of a free trade zone in Giurgiu was also analyzed.

The prime minister visited also the Giurgiu—Ruse [Bulgaria] border crossing point where it was planned that a new customs station be built, that should reach international standards, in order to ease the travelers' flow. The works on that project are planned to begin this spring.

Iliescu Previews Agenda for Middle East Visit

AU1004144193 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] President Ion Iliescu departed today for the Middle East on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, Syria, and Lebanon.

The head of state is accompanied by Finance Minister Florin Georgescu, Trade Minister Constantin Teculescu, Foreign Ministry State Secretary Gheorghe Tinca, and various experts.

At Otopeni Airport Iliescu made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] I would like to point out a few things. As far as the United Arab Emirates are concerned, we are talking about an area that has experienced dynamic development in the past 20-30 years based particularly on the abundant oil resources in that area.

In the wake of the 1989 revolution, we established contacts with the Gulf states and we maintain diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates. There have also been contacts and relations at the economic level.

On this visit, we will hold summit meetings in the three emirates incorporated in this union—Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Sarjah—and together we will try to assess opportunities to expand relations, especially financial-economic ones. The United Arab Emirates also represents a strong financial center.

Our experts, together with their partners, will examine opportunities to expand these relations and forms of cooperation both through a broader presence of our products in the markets of these states and through production cooperation focusing on the processing of oil from that area in Romanian facilities. They will also examine opportunities to expand investment in our industries and economy.

As far as Syria is concerned, we maintain traditional relations. Together with President Hafiz al-Asad, we want to examine—and this mutual political desire and aspiration exists—ways and means to consolidate and develop bilateral relations, including economic, industrial, agricultural, and other types of relations.

Similarly, Lebanon, which is experiencing a more peaceful period, is pursuing great projects, particularly regarding the reconstruction of Beirut. There are requests for a more active presence of Romanian enterprises.

Thus, on the one hand, we will jointly examine opportunities to expand bilateral relations and, on the other—being present in that area and considering the positive relations which Romania maintains with both the Arab countries which we will visit and with Arab countries in general, as well as with Israel—we will also jointly examine ways and means to promote the reconstruction process in that area in light of future meetings in Washington. [end recording]

Nastase Returns From Ukraine, Calls Visit 'a Success'

AU0904191293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1800 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 9/4/1993—Friday afternoon (April 9), the Romanian parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Adrian Nastase came back to Bucharest after an official visit to Ukraine.

On his arrival on Bucharest Otopeni Airport Adrian Nastase told the press the following:

"The visit was a success, with respect both to the contacts as well as the contents of the talks and to the direct contact with the Romanians in Northern Bukovina. We have overcome a psychological obstacle that could have led to freezing the relations between the two countries.

Of course, we have not solved the central problem of the Romanian-Ukrainian rapports, which was generated by the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. Ukraine did not sign that pact, but the territorial benefits it derived therefrom cannot be justified, however, starting from the fact that Ukraine has become an independent sovereign state only recently, and has a particular sensitivity towards territorial claims—it has established for itself the axiom that it will not discuss that issue—it appears wise not to bring it up yet. More so as the current international context does not encourage such claims. On the other hand we note that the Romanian national being in those territories is running the risk of gradually becoming extinct.

The Romanian parliamentary delegation has deemed it wise not to bring up the territorial issue yet, and we concentrated upon common interests, especially on building special privileged relations with Ukraine. I am speaking here of the improvement of political, economic, cultural, juridical relations, so as between Romania and Ukraine the rapports may develop to the mutual interest."

Mladic Proposes Talks With Muslim Counterpart

LD0904190993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1522 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—In talks with UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] Commander for former Yugoslavia General Lars-Eric Wahlgren today, commander of the army of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] Ratko Mladic condemned the Muslims for the violation of the agreed cease-fire and put forward a proposal to meet with Commander of the Muslim forces Sefer Halilovic on Monday [12 April].

"Muslims violated the cease-fire because they started deblockading Srebrenica. In addition they engaged in combat activities in the wider region of Kalesija and Vlasenica," General Mladic said. "We captured a part of their forces and I gave permission to UNPROFOR officers to have talks with them and see for themselves who is violating the cease-fire."

According to Mladic, if the enemy side accepts his proposals weapons around Srebrenica should go quiet at 1400 tomorrow. Face-to-face negotiations with Halilovic on the entire package of problems regarding Srebrenica ought to start at 1200 on Monday at the Sarajevo Airport. [passage omitted]

Mladic Assesses Sarajevo Meeting

AU0904170993 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1555 GMT 9 Apr 93

[News conference by General Ratko Mladic, commander of the army of the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, with unidentified foreign and domestic correspondents in Belgrade on 9 April—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You spoke to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] representatives for more than two hours. What are your impressions and what can you tell the public?

[Mladic] We discussed numerous issues today, and once again the central one was Srebrenica.

[Correspondent] Last night it was reported that UNPROFOR forces in charge of distributing humanitarian aid distributed or were distributing arms in Sarajevo.

[Mladic] Ammunition—about 24,000 various types of bullets. This was discussed, as well.

[Correspondent] What was agreed on finally? That the humanitarian aid not be abused? That it should have a humanitarian role, not this vandal role?

[Mladic] I must say that this is not the first time. We gave Mr. Thornberry specific proofs and evidence that humanitarian aid convoys had been abused, and not for the first time. If you noticed last time, in my past talks with Mr. Wahlgren and at a news conference, there were no oil wells in Sarajevo or a factory of Arab and German ammunition. We saw what happened, however. This is not the first time. This is only one of [word indistinct], ranging from Caritas and Merhamet, which unfortunately supplied and still are supplying arms to both the Muslim and Croatian people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Mladic, did UNPROFOR representatives react to your official protest concerning the incident that took place near the Sarajevo airport—that is, the discovery of ammunition in the UNPROFOR convoy?

[Mladic] Yes, they did. They assured me that they have carried out a detailed investigation. They want to extend it and asked me to help them in this direction. We will do this.

[Correspondent] Was any specific progress made in the talks today?

[Mladic] Yes, in the sense that they realized that we are not at war with UNPROFOR, nor will we be, I hope. It would be good if General Wahlgren had understood this at the beginning of his mandate.

[Correspondent] What was the explanation of the fact that UNPROFOR is abusing is role? Instead of playing a humanitarian role, it has assumed some other kind of role.

[Mladic] You see, there are individuals who, unfortunately, have abused this and who succumb to human weaknesses.

[Correspondent] The discovery of this ammunition in an UNPROFOR truck is potentially dangerous for the entire UNPROFOR operation in Bosnia.

[Mladic] If this kind of conduct continues, there will certainly be danger because UNPROFOR then would be one of the sides in the conflict.

[Correspondent] General Mladic, today's round of talks were about the maintenance of the cease-fire. Can you tell us how UNPROFOR representatives see the entire process?

[Mladic] You see, I said—I must say it openly and honestly here, and I indeed believe in this—I think that General Wahlgren is in a more difficult position than any commander of the warring sides. I was joking when I said that this perhaps is why he had an assistant with four stars. This perhaps is symbolic because there are four sides in the conflict in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has to be neutral and yet he has to please every side in the conflict. We are not asking anyone for favors, but we want UNPROFOR to work for peace and not to exert pressure.

To be specific, there were some attempts to get a Canadian battalion to Srebrenica at any cost. This can be done only over our bodies. I have offered first mine, then those of my family, then those of other Serbs, from Tuzla to Srebrenica. They cannot go there by force. Blackmail

does not work with us. The Security Council must understand that we are members of this planet, that we are not aliens, and that we are not bargaining chips for Serbian peace. We must be respected. They must talk to us. A lot can be achieved by talking to us, but nothing can be achieved by using force.

[Correspondent] So far, you have proposed peace in that region several times, but peace never has been (?accepted) by the belligerent sides, the ones that are against the Serbian people.

[Mladic] This is why peace has not been established.

Army Rejects Talks

LD1104181693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In connection with the talks between the highest military representatives [of the three warring sides], which are to be held at Sarajevo airport tomorrow, as arranged by UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], the press center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army has been authorized to announce the following:

Representatives of the army and the highest state bodies of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina have several times said that they will not hold negotiations until the aggressor stops combat activities for at least 24 hours before the arranged meeting between military representatives. Despite the fact that the aggressor side has promised the international community that they will halt the brutal aggression and the killing of civilians, in line with their notorious behavior, the chetnik offensive has continued. Such a situation puts a moral and military constraint [ogranicenje] on the participation of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army representatives in the talks before an absolute cease-fire is secured.

Villages Near Srebrenica Fall into Serbian Hands

AU1204110693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Report by press center of the headquarters of Srebrenica armed forces]

[Text] The Serbo-Montenegrin aggressor on the territory of Srebrenica does not observe any norms of behavior. Late yesterday afternoon he carried out a powerful attack at (?Mocevici) and (Poloznik) where fierce battles between the aggressor and the members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army were fought until late at night.

In the first hours of the new day, the aggressor, thanks to his superiority in manpower and generous mortar support, succeeded in conquering (?Mocevici) and (?Poloznik), massacring approximately 15 civilians, and setting the villages on fire.

The horrendous scenes do not cease—more rapes, destruction, arson, and killing are daily occurrences in the drama of Srebrenica. There were attempts at an infantry breakthrough from the direction of Osmaci last night that the members of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army thwarted. The free territory and its first lines of defense in this part of Srebrenica battlefield were intensely showered by mortar and tank grenades, which killed three and wounded three civilians. There were also casualties in the ranks of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.

The positions of the fighters of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army in Likari, Buljin, and [word indistinct] were shelled fiercely by mortars throughout the night. The aggressor was also firing antiaircraft machine guns, antiaircraft guns, and infantry arms at them.

Karadzic To Abandon Talks if Sanctions Increased

LD1104163793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1354 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Pale, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, the president of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Hercegovina], told Serb republic Radio, Studio S in Pale, that there would be no end to the war without direct negotiations, and that the rejection of such negotiations by the Muslim leadership compromises the policy of Alija Izetbegovic.

What kind of common state can we have if the Muslims are refusing even to hold direct talks, Karadzic said.

I do not believe that ground troops will be sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the chances of limited air strikes are minimal, although we are preparing for all options, even for those which seem unlikely, Karadzic said.

Talking about a possible UN resolution introducing further sanctions against Yugoslavia, Karadzic described the U.S. and German positions as attempts to exert further pressure on the Serbian nation.

China has so far been reserved in this respect and has stuck to its principles, while Russia's current position is such that it cannot meet all the demands put forward by the West, Karadzic said.

If any further sanctions are introduced, however, we will abandon the negotiating process, proclaim our independence, and consider possibilities for uniting with other Serbian areas. We simply have nothing to negotiate with those who, despite great cooperation on our part and the part of Yugoslavia, tend to conduct a policy of the constant punishing of the Serbian nation, Karadzic said.

Explaining his views on the current U.S. position concerning the crisis in Bosnia, Karadzic voiced his personal impression that America does not want the Bosnian Serbs to sign the present map proposal, probably, as he said, in order to preserve the reason for the existence of NATO in the present balance of power in the world. The American military industry depends largely on the survival of NATO. America must justify the existence of NATO, perhaps even if the price they have to pay for it is to keep the Balkans unstable. The fact is, however, that such a situation in the

Balkans leads toward further impoverishment of all countries in the region, Karadzic said.

Commenting on the upcoming visit of the American mediator at the negotiations on Bosnia, Reginald Bartholomew, to the former Yugoslavia, Karadzic said that this visit directly served the U.S. purpose of delaying the vote on a UN Security Council resolution introducing further sanctions against Yugoslavia.

It is possible that the Vance-Owen plan will be proclaimed dead, and this would lead to a new conference on Bosnia, but this time based on principles that would take into account all, including the Serb interests, which has not been the case so far, Karadzic said. If this does not happen, he added, concessions to our people in Bosnia are unavoidable, because this is a matter of rights and justice.

Commenting on current events in Russia, Karadzic stressed that Russians have their problems, above all economic ones, and that they are the main reason for the opposition's attacks against Yeltsin. However, it is a fact that Andrey Kozyrev was the most frequent target of the criticism, because the Russians have lost their influence in the Middle East and also in the European southeast. Karadzic believes that this will lead the Russian Government to make an attempt to change its currently passive position and gain positive points on the internal scene before the upcoming referendum.

However, it must be taken into account that America is using us to show its muscles to the entire world and that Russia and some other regions like the Indian peninsula are the primary target for destabilization, Karadzic said.

Commenting on UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Force] presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the no-fly zone resolution the implementation of which is expected for tomorrow, the president of the Serb republic said that he was not worried by threats of this kind, because the Serb Air Force is not flying, except for helicopters used for the evacuation of the wounded in agreement with UNPROFOR.

Commenting on the award [King Faysal international prize for services to Islam] received by Alija Izetbegovic in Saudi Arabia, Karadzic said that Islam was not threatened in Bosnia and that it was Turkey's intent to renew the Ottoman Empire which was under threat.

The award received by Izetbegovic only confirms that we are right, because this is an example of the spreading of militant Islamic fundamentalism and not of the Islamic religion, president of the Serb republic said.

UNPROFOR Steps Up Control Over Humanitarian Cargo

AU0904195093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] At today's regular news conference held in the Sarajevo headquarters of the peace troops, Barry Frewer, representative of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] Command for Bosnia-Herzegovina, informed correspondents about yesterday's incident where a large amount of ammunition was discovered at the chetnik check point in Ilidza in a convoy belonging to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR].

In the trucks that were carrying food for Butmir, 48 boxes with ammunition of various calibers were discovered at a chetnik barricade. The chetniks immediately accused UNHCR members of smuggling ammunition for the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.

According to Barry Frewer, it has not yet been established who loaded the ammunition on the trucks along with the humanitarian cargo. UNPROFOR stepped up the control at all check points where cargo is being loaded to a maximum level. Barry Frewer also said that several investigation teams have been formed to examine this very serious incident.

Barry Frewer was not in a position to reply whether the chetniks themselves staged this incident to divert international attention from the tragic situation in east Bosnia and their obstruction of all international humanitarian efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The convoy was traveling from Sarajevo airport to Butmir, so it is highly unusual that somebody would be supplying the soldiers in free Butmir with ammunition from the surrounded Sarajevo when it is already accessible in the vast free territory.

Serb Commander Says Morillon Responsible for Smuggling

LD0904175993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1704 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—Perhaps French General Philippe Morillon did not know about yesterday's ammunition transport in the UN humanitarian convoy, but as commander, he is responsible, said General Ratko Mladic, commander of the General Staff of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] army, at a news conference at the International Press Center in Belgrade today. He stressed that in case of new similar incidents, other measures apart from warnings would be taken. Mladic said that the Muslims lost Srebrenica militarily and that the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] army has nothing against the deceived helpless population, only against those who have committed massacres.

Karadzic Comments on Arms Found on Convoy

LD1004091093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0502 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Zvornik, 10 April (TANJUG)—The discovery of ammunition in a humanitarian convoy intended for Muslims shows to the entire world that the Serbs have not been halting and searching convoys in vain, but

because they know that they transport material used to kill the Serbs, president of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] Radovan Karadzic stated in Zvornik last night.

"It is clear to us that UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] has been helping our enemy from the very beginning. We are not sure that the main command has been involved in that, but we have never doubted that some individuals belonging to UNPROFOR were deeply engaged in sending different combat material to the Muslims and Croats," he added.

In a statement to TANJUG correspondent Vladimir Elez, Karadzic said he hoped Serb stands on the situation in former Bosnia-Herzegovina will be much clearer to all relevant world factors now after the visit by special Russian mediator Vitaliy Churkin.

"Minister Churkin came to see us with a strong desire to learn about the Serb position in order to be able to contribute to the process of searching for a solution. The Russian diplomacy noticed that conclusions such as the declaration of the Bileca Assembly were wrongly interpreted abroad as our rejection of further talks and the Vance-Owen plan as a whole," Karadzic said.

I believe that Churkin is now able to tell other conference participants that the Serb rejection is not a question of whim or the conquest of other people's territories, but rather a question of the right to one's own territories and a right to geographical continuity so that we can avoid conflicts in the future," the Serb republic president added.

Asked whether peace is now closer than before, Karadzic said he hoped it was so, but "everything depends on the international community."

"It caused the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and kept it going for as long as it needed it. It is the international community that can halt it. Even before the war, we were proposing that everything should be done in a peaceful way," Karadzic noted.

The Serb republic president recalled the Carrington-Cutilheiro map, which gave the Serbs 50 percent of the territories, before any war broke out and without any fighting.

"That clearly shows that our demands are not a result of fighting or an alleged aggression, but a result of the right to living space and living conditions. It is sufficient to take a look at the map, which was drawn up before the war, and conclude that the Serbs enjoy a minimum degree of rights and that they cannot give them up," he said.

Asked whether these facts will now be taken into account more than in negotiations so far, Karadzic replied: "I think they will, even more so because we have heard some very interesting signals coming from the American side."

The Serb republic president said he meant the statements by top American officials on the possibilities to improve the Vance-Owen project, the infeasibility of the entire package as a mosaic of 10 provinces, and on the necessity to reexamine old ideas on the setting up of three states on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic assessed the idea on three states as the most appropriate one and that is "the shortest way to the solution, because the same will be done if we have ten provinces, but in a roundabout and strenuous fashion."

Serbs Warn UN of Plans To Confiscate Weapons

LD1104152793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1313 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Pale, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—The government of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] sent a letter today to the UN secretary general in which it resolutely protested against the violations of the basic principles of humanitarian organizations and the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] mission, in connection with the misuse of humanitarian aid for transporting ammunition and arming Muslim units in the villages of Butmir, Sokolovic Kolonija, and Hrasnica.

The letter reads:

"With deep regret, we note that this is not the first occasion on which humanitarian operations have been misused for military purposes. On several occasions we have informed you about numerous examples of such unacceptable conduct. The government of the Serb republic has also pointed out the fact that the process of arming Muslim and Croat military units is taking place simultaneously with humanitarian operations. On the other hand, it has been demanded from us to secure the free passage of humanitarian convoys and their escorts. This incident, which took place two days ago and which was the most serious one so far, has caused a deep revolt among our people, and we have been facing their spontaneous reactions in the field. We would like to stress that persistent abuse of humanitarian operations is threatening all humanitarian efforts and could paralyze them completely. The government of the Serb republic believes that the Muslim and Croat sides as well as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and the UN are responsible for this situation. Despite everything we have done to promote our cooperation, we cannot accept the UN and the UNHCR tolerating the transport of military equipment.

"The government of the Serb republic has issued an order to the main headquarters of the Serb republic's army to strictly control all humanitarian convoys. If ammunition or weapons are found on them, the vehicles will be confiscated and all persons escorting them will be treated in accordance with the laws of the Serb republic.

"We use this opportunity to inform you that the government of the Serb republic is preparing a statement of intent concerning our future cooperation with humanitarian organizations," it is said at the end of the letter the Serb republic government sent to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali by Prime Minister Vladimir Lukic.

Serb Command To Tighten Checks on UN Convoys

AU0904204093 Paris AFP in English 2025 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 9 (AFP)—General Ratko Mladic, the commander of Bosnian Serb forces, said Friday [9 April] his troops would drastically tighten up checks on aid convoys after thousands of rounds were found under sacks of flour on U.N. truck the previous day.

Speaking to the press here after meeting with the commander of U.N. forces in ex-Yugoslavia, Mladic said that if necessary "we will open each box big enough to hold a bullet."

Referring to the unidentified persons who had smuggled the 22,560 rounds of ammunition on to the U.N. relief truck Thursday [8 April], Mladic said: "We cannot allow these guys to destroy our roads and to deliver death to our children."

The truck, which had been loaded at Sarajevo airport, was stopped at a Serb checkpoint as it was heading to the predominantly-Moslem suburb of Butmir.

Mladic pinned the blame on the French commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, General Philippe Morillon.

"Perhaps he was not aware (of the ammunition smuggling), but he is responsible for it as commander of the U.N. forces," said Mladic.

The U.N. forces have launched an investigation into the affair.

Meanwhile, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Tuzla, northeast Bosnia, said they expected a convoy to evacuate another 1,500 refugees from the besieged town of Srebrenica, east Bosnia, on Saturday.

UNHCR spokesman Richard Makowe said in Tuzla that an 18-truck convoy carrying food and medicine would leave Belgrade Saturday morning for Srebrenica, where some 70,000 Moslems have been holed up in often desperate circumstances during a months-long siege by Serb forces.

The convoy should arrive in Tuzla, packed with refugees, Saturday evening, Mokowe said.

The UNHCR, which has evacuated some 7,000 refugees from Srebrenica in past weeks, hopes to carry out another 15,000 persons.

The evacuation has been criticised by Srebrenican authorities who say that it amounts to the United Nations assisting the Serb forces in their policy of "ethnically cleansing" Bosnia-Herzegovina. But Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has approved of the U.N. operation.

UN Convoys Cancelled 'For Security Reasons'

AU1204095093 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 12 (AFP)—Three scheduled U.N. relief convoys Monday [12 April] to Srebrenica, Bratunac and Tuzla in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina have been cancelled for security reasons, a U.N. official said here.

Bosnian Serbs have held up previous U.N. convoys for three or four hours and lorries were also stoned at Zvornik and Caparde as they went through Serb-held territory on their way back to Belgrade from beleaguered Moslem zones.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Vesna Grubacic said "the HCR intends to obtain guarantees from the Bosnian Serbs that such incidents will not happen again."

The UNHCR was also looking for more covered lorries "providing greater safety and comfort" for refugees to be evacuated from the Moslem enclave of Srebrenica.

The latest convoy to come out of the town was unable to evacuate 1,500 women, children and elderly people as planned when local authorities complained that the lorries were not covered.

The UNHCR has taken some 7,000 Moslems out already to the relative safety of Tuzla, a Bosnian-held town to the northwest, but attempts to evacuate some 15,000 more have met opposition from the local Moslem authorities.

They are held to fear that evacuations will sap the will of the Bosnian army defenders, and the United Nations has been accused of abetting the Serb policy of "ethnic cleansing", forcing Moslem civilians to flee their homes as the Serb troops advance.

U.N. officials say refugees gathered in Srebrenica from other areas are desparate to leave.

Gorazde-Bound Convoy Turns Back for Belgrade

LD0904161793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1506 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] convoy carrying humanitarian aid for Gorazde, stopped at Podromanija yesterday and is returning to Belgrade, TANJUG learned today at the UNHCR Belgrade headquarters.

The convoy of 12 trucks carrying 123 tonnes of food aid, which was searched by the forces of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] in Podromanija, gave up its journey to Gorazde because its leader did not accept the

demand to continue the journey without a UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] escort.

According to the UNHCR Belgrade office, the convoy leader made the decision for security reasons. The UNHCR has announced that a new humanitarian aid convoy will leave for Srebrenica tomorrow and the town's population will be evacuated to Tuzla.

The UNHCR was unable to give any information regarding the evacuation of Serbs from Tuzla because, they said, the operation is lead by General Philippe Morillon, commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

UN Trucks Return Empty From Srebrenica

LD1004172893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1705 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Bratunac, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—This afternoon, 22 Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees trucks, which were to take another group of Muslim civilians from Srebrenica to Tuzla, returned empty, Serb military sources in Bratunac have said.

This morning, the convoy reached Bratunac unhindered through the territory of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina]. Nine trucks with humanitarian aid went on from Bratunac to Srebrenica, while 13 empty trucks remained near Zuti Most [Yellow Bridge] to wait for Muslim civilians from Srebrenica, who were to go to Tuzla in a 22-truck convoy.

However, those nine trucks returned from Srebrenica empty as well. [passage omitted]

UN Refuses To Secure Two Trucks Taking Aid to Tuzla

LD1104174893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1723 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Bijeljina, April 11 (TANJUG)—The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has refused to secure two lorries to ship food from the Serb town of Bijeljina in northeastern Bosnia for the Serb humanitarian society "Dobrotvor" in the Moslem town of Tuzla in northern Bosnia, representative the Bijeljina-based Commission for Exchange of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] Vojislav Djurkovic told TANJUG on Sunday [11 April].

Djurkovic underscored that the food shipments from Bijeljina to Tuzla would not be intended only for Serbs, but for all citizens of Tuzla.

Representatives of local commissions of the Serb and Moslem sides recently agreed to help the population with joint actions, especially by opening a corridor between Tuzla and Bijeljina for free passage of civilians, Djurkovic said.

Under this agreement, and at the initiative of the Belgrade-based European Community (E.C.) observer mission, food was to have been transported in lorries along this corridor.

"To everyone's amazement, the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] refused to do this," Djurkovic said. The Belgrade E.C. mission informed the Serb side about this after its representatives were in Tuzla on Saturday for talks.

There are around 18,000 Serbs in Tuzla who are in a very difficult position because "they are discriminated against during the distribution of humanitarian aid, which in fact reaches this town through the territory of the Serb republic without any difficulties," Djurkovic said.

France's Leotard Urges Review of UN Deployment

AU0904173393 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Sarajevo, April 9 (AFP)—France's new defense minister called here Friday [9 April] for a review of the rules of engagement for U.N. peacekeepers during a visit with French forces, which have lost 12 soldiers in the former Yugoslavia.

"I would like the way in which the United Nations deploys forces to be reviewed," Francois Leotard said, "so that that the troops which are engaged can be protected better and know better how they are allowed to respond to the attacks they come under."

France has about 10,000 troops deployed in peacekeeping operations around the world, half of them in the former Yugoslavia. Twelve of the latter have been killed and about 100 have been wounded since the deployment began about a year ago.

It was Leotard's first visit with French forces stationed overseas since he was appointed in late March to the new center-right government in Paris.

Leotard was to meet later Friday in Zagreb with the commander of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force for all of the former Yugoslavia, General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden, and with the commander of the force in Bosnia, French General Philippe Morillon.

Serbian Army Accuses French of 'Siding With Muslims'

LD0904163693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1403 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Pale, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—The General Staff of the Army of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] today lodged a protest with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] commands in Zagreb and Kiseljak, condemning French representatives for "practically siding

with the Muslims," and for lending them active support, while satanizing and falsely condemning the Serbs.

The protest that was sent to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] says that the French forgot that they are members of the UN peace forces.

Major General Manojlo Milovanovic, chief of the General Staff of the army of the Serb republic, who signed the protest, said that yesterday 40 ammunition boxes containing 25,000 bullets were found near Sarajevo in containers loaded with humanitarian aid intended for Muslims.

The protest by the General Staff adds a few new details.

The command says that "the central person in the infamous job of the peace forces was most certainly Mr. Pule [name as received], commander of the French battalion."

The protest says that he "took over responsibility for the task at the request of his associate and friend, UNHCR representative Tony Lendle [name as received], who allegedly did not have trucks and drivers at that time."

"Commander Pule took over the task because it was necessary to supply Muslims with ammunition immediately, and he also engaged combat vehicles in order to complete the mission."

The protest goes on to say that Commander Pule, when carrying out this action, "forgot about the real role of his battalion, which was supposed to secure Sarajevo Airport, not to supply humanitarian aid."

Therefore, the protest says, "almost every night, people and motor vehicles of the Muslim forces have been crossing Sarajevo airport freely, crossing the runway from the direction of Hrasnica, Sokolovic Kolonija, and Butmir toward the airport suburb of Dobrinja, the city of Sarajevo, and vice versa".

Commander Pule has not been discharging his duty in keeping with an agreement on the takeover of the airport reached between the Serbs and UNPROFOR, but has been helping Muslims. The protest says that, as soon as the Serbs object, the French condemn them.

The General Staff hopes that, from this, "UNHCR will learn a basic lesson, which is to know what is stored in their warehouses and what is stored in their containers."

The protest says that Gen. Milovanovic saved Gen. Morillon from the indignation of the Serb people in Zvornik yesterday, who were exasperated over the fact that Morillon did not keep his promise to evacuate Serbs from Tuzla.

Gen. Morillon, the protest says, "gave firm assurances" yesterday to Gen. Milovanovic that he would set off to Tuzla immediately and that he would not return before he evacuates the Serbs from that town, which he did with the Muslims from Srebrenica.

The protest notes that Morillon, as a general and commander, again failed to keep his promise. Instead of going to Tuzla, he went to Belgrade "in case something would happen in his absence", because he is "a personal envoy of Alija Izetbegovic and is supporting the Muslim side."

Clashes Between Bosnian Croats, Muslims 'Escalating'

LD1004192593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1856 GMT 10 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Banja Luka, April 10 (TANJUG)—Clashes between Bosnian Croats and Moslems in central Bosnia are escalating, especially in Konjic, Jablanica, Prozor and Travnik, the first Krajina corps of the Bosnian Serb army said on Saturday [11 April].

A heavy artillery duel broke out in Travnik over the issue of which flag would be flown in this town—Croat or Moslem, said the report.

Bosnian Croats and Moslems are formally allies in their battle against Bosnian Serbs in the civil, ethnic and religious war which has been raging in Bosnia-Herzegovina for more than a year.

The Moslem-Croat conflict broke out a few months ago in central Bosnia-Herzegovina in the towns of Busovaca and Travnik, and it spread to the region of Konjic and Jablanica last month, where they split up over military and political power in ethnically mixed parts of provinces designed by international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

Both Croats and Moslems, however, expect that the real conflict is yet to come after April 15, the deadline set by Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban for the withdrawal of all Moslem units from so-called Croat provinces of the Vance-Owen plan.

There is a Moslem-Croat conflict in Zenica, also. Here it was provoked by the fact that humanitarian and other convoys are finding it increasingly difficult to reach Moslem territories through Croat controlled areas. This particularly pertains to the road through Metkovic, Mostar, Jablanica, Prozor, Gornji Vakuf, Travnik, and further towards Zenica, Zepac or Gradacac, the Bosnian Serb Army report said.

The report released by the press center of the Krajina corps [words indistinct] Serb republic further said that there were a large number of barricades set up by Croats along these routes where they allegedly control the cargo and actually take anything they please from the convoys, although it is a known fact that the command of the

Croatian Defence Council (HVO - the military political leadership of Bosnian Croats) keeps half of every convoy taking aid to Moslems.

HVO, Army Representatives Meet

AU0904195893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] After fierce clashes between members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and Croatian Defense Council [HVO] in Travnik, which ended last night with great consequences, peace of mind seems to have been regained this morning. Ahmed Vigicevic reports:

[Begin recording] Representatives of the clashing sides, led by Djemal Merzan and Franjo Nakic, met in Travnik today in the presence of an EC observers' mission. They agreed that representatives of the HVO government and war presidency of the Travnik Communal Assembly should meet immediately to agree on the manner in which flags can be displayed—which is the reason for the clashes—and how other problems caused by this incident are to be resolved.

It was concluded that the joint commissions formed earlier should immediately start establishing facts and name the perpetrators of the incident and crime. The commanders of all formations of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO were also ordered to maintain strict control over their units and channel all their efforts against the common enemy, who is only 7 km away from Travnik.

They decided to form joint patrols of the civilian and military police, which will work the entire day and study all cases of Bosnia-Herzegovina Army members being arrested and detained by the HVO police. To calm the situation that has emerged—which has been condemned by nearly all Travnik residents—it was agreed to hold several more meetings with representatives of the clashing sides this evening in order to make such clashes a thing of the past as soon as possible. [end recording]

Croatian Defense Council Restricts Access to Mostar

AU0904155293 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The defense section of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] in Mostar has reported that the situation in (?Ceonica) in the Konjic commune is abating and that there are no new clashes between the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and Croatian Defense Council.

The public's attention was caught by the HVO's decision to deny entry to those people that were not residing in Mostar prior to 1 January 1990, which can be proven by their identity cards. Travel permits will be issued for passage through Mostar and will be valid for four hours. It is also mandatory that they be handed over upon leaving the Mostar commune.

Bosnia, Krajina Serbs to Create Joint State

LD0904201893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1923 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Banja Luka, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the Assembly of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina], said in Banja Luka this evening that the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] and the republic of Serb Krajina "will in the nearest future start implementing the declaration on unification of the two Serb states, adopted at the end of October last year in Prijedor."

Krajisnik added that in the future the delegations of the Serb republic and the republic of Serb Krajina will act jointly in negotiations with the cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia.

The assembly speaker of the Serb republic had talks in Banja Luka this evening with deputies from the Banja Luka region, town mayors, and presidents of municipal committees of the Serb Democratic Party.

Izetbegovic Asks Islamic Countries for Arms, Money

LD1104184193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1806 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Cairo, April 11 (TANJUG)—Moslem leader in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic said in Riyadh that the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina must be resolved urgently, but at the same time he asked the Islamic countries to send him arms and money, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported on Sunday [11 April].

"If the Bosnian crisis is not resolved soon and in a positive manner, it could spread to the entire Balkans and bring the world on to the brink of a Third World War," Izetbegovic said in the Saudi capital Riyadh, where he received the King Faysal Award for his contribution to Islam.

Although he did not explain at a news conference what he meant by "positive" solution, Izetbegovic nevertheless asked the Islamic countries to send arms and money so that he could continue the war against what he called the "continuing Serbian aggression on Bosnia".

Demanding that the Islamic countries "fulfil their obligation towards war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina," Izetbegovic clearly sought to present the problem in that former Yugoslav republic as one primarily concerning religion—hence his use of the word obligations to defend Islam.

Accusing the Islamic countries' governments of "doing less in this context than their peoples," Izetbegovic said "every war for the defence of Islam is a holy war".

The Bosnian Moslem leader also repeated his demand to the international community for the embargo on deliveries of weapons to the forces which are loyal to him to be lifted.

In spite of the embargo, a steady stream of weapons and Mojahedin has long been flowing from the Islamic countries to the Bosnian Moslems, the countries being the most active in this context being Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Izetbegovic also received in Riyadh on Sunday ten million dollars collected by the Saudi Committee for Helping the Bosnian Moslems.

Izetbegovic Meets Senator Biden, Departs for Saudi Arabia

LD0904215193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Bosnia-Herzegovina President Alija Izetbegovic has had a brief meeting with U.S. Senator Joseph Biden at Sarajevo airport. President Izetbegovic met the U.S. senator before leaving for Saudi Arabia where he will receive the King Fahd award. President Izetbegovic is also expected to meet the highest-ranking officials of Saudi Arabia during his stay in this country. [passage omitted]

Bartholomew To Meet Presidency Members, Tour Sarajevo

AU1204112593 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] According to the report by the civilian sector of the UN Protection Force, Mr. Reginald Bartholomew, special envoy of the UN commission for former Yugoslavia, will visit Sarajevo today.

During his stay in Sarajevo, Mr. Bartholomew will meet Mirko Pejanovic and Tatjana Ljujic-Mijatovic, members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency; Sefer Halilovic, commander of the General Staff of the Supreme Command of Bosnia-Herzegovina armed forces; Deputy Prime Ministers Zlatko Lagumdzija and Hadzo Efendic; Information Minister Ivo Knezevic; Muhamed Filipovic, deputy in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly; and a representative of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A tour of the city and a visit to Kosevo hospital are planned after the talks.

Serbian General Says Forces 'Ready' for Intervention

AU1104195793 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with General Radovan Grubac, commander of the Herzegovina Corps, by Predrag Miljanovic in Herzegovina on 11 April—recorded]

[Text] [Miljanovic] We are at a Serbian position in Herzegovina. Next to me is General Radovan Grubac, commander of the Herzegovina Corps. General, the Serbs are offering peace. They are not giving up their territories, and the sanctions are being tightened. Foreign military planes are in northern Italy, and tomorrow the Security Council will adopt yet another resolution against the Serbs. From the military point of view, what are we to expect and what are our chances?

[Grubac] The Serbs are offering peace because the Serbs were in favor of peace even before this war. They are for peace now and they will always be, but they are not for peace at their expense. The fact that the world adopts resolutions, imposes various sanctions, and so on, that is the world's business. Our business is to defend our country and the sky [word indistinct], even military intervention. We are ready to respond to that challenge as well. Let them come. We will defend our country against them and we will be successful in doing so. Everyone knows what the Serbian land is. The Serbian land is where the Serbian people live, where the Serbian churches are, where the Serbian people have been murdered, and the things that are Serbian will remain Serbian and no one else's.

General Ninkovic Comments on NATO Operation

AU1104192193 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Report by Dragan Bera from Banja Luka, including statement by General Zivomir Ninkovic, commander of the Serbian republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina air force and antiaircraft defense; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bera] The sky over Banja Luka and Krajina is gray today. A spring rain is falling. Everything is quiet. No planes can be heard. Things could change as early as tomorrow, however. The Americans and their allies have been given the green light with the Security Council resolution to use force in the no-fly zone. That decision has been made despite the fact that Serbian aircraft are not flying. What do the commanders of the Air Force and antiaircraft defense of the Serbian republic army have to say about that? How are they preparing for it?

[Ninkovic] Since the first phase of the Resolution 816 has been completed with the airdrop operation, meaning the electronic reconnaissance of our positions, the positions of the Serbian republic army, the second phase is following. It is to be expected that they also will use force against facilities on the ground, against the airport, against the missile batteries, and military units. The West is clearly showing, everyone knows, that it will not stop short of that. We are, of course, undertaking adequate measures, with extreme professionalism and expertise, measures that imply certain activities for such occasions.

[Bera] So the powerful United States has a chance, starting tomorrow, to test its might in the air space of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Serbs, as has been the case so far, will not give it an excuse to use it.

Camp Reportedly Set Up in Banja Luka for Muslims, Croats

LD0904154793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Following the dismantling of the notorious Manjaca, Omarska, and Trnopolje camps, a small camp for torturing young citizens of Banja Luka, mainly Croats and Muslims, has been established in the center of Banja Luka. Civilian and military police are arresting Croats and Muslims after breaking into their apartments.

Arrested Croats and Muslims are terrorized by camp wardens from Manajca, Omarska, and Trnoplje, people who have already committed numerous crimes.

In order to survive, hundreds of Croats and Muslims are going to the Caritas and Merhamet offices in Banja Luka. Many of them have been dismissed from their jobs, so they are forced to seek help from these humanitarian organizations.

The Serb authorities in Banja Luka have started forcibly to remove from their apartments Croats and Muslims, who, in the assessment of a Serb commission, have excess accommodation. The commission is ordering citizens with excess accommodation to move to other apartments which usually do not meet even the minimum requirements for decent living. Many citizens of Banja Luka have also been forced to give their cars to the Serb army. These are mainly expensive cars which find their way to markets in Serbia and Montenegro, where they are being sold cheaply.

Serb Commander Protests Alleged UNPROFOR Activities

LD1004114993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0924 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Knin, 10 April (TANJUG)—Because of the search of vehicles, blockading of roads, and the search of private houses in Sector West, the commander of the army of the republic of Serb Krajina, Major General Mile Novakovic, sent a sharp letter of protest to the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] command and to the UNPROFOR commander for former Yugoslavia, Gen. Lars-Eric Wahlgren himself.

This, the protest letter says, goes beyond the mandate of the UN forces, and we doubt whether any attention has been paid to our previous protests "because of the inconceivable attitude of UNPROFOR members."

Gen. Novakovic presented two cases in which members of a UN Nepalese battalion crudely violated their mandate: On the night of 8 April, they set up a control point on the road between the villages of Smrtici and Medjari "controlling and searching vehicles without authority."

After midnight on the very same night, they surrounded the house of Misa Todorovic under the pretext that pistol fire had allegedly been opened on them from the house. "They searched the house and, not having found anything in it, went away leaving behind scared women, children, and a justified question for all of us whether they understand the seriousness of such actions."

Gen. Novakovic further says that despite demonization of the Serb people "we do not want conflicts with people who have been sent to secure some kind of peace," adding that pride has its limits, which "we are not going to reduce below the minimum of human dignity."

We do not want your loyalty, but want you to be objective and observe the duties that UNPROFOR has in this area, the letter of protest says in conclusion.

RSK Army Protests to UNPROFOR Command

LD1104155493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1507 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Knin, April 11 (TANJUG)—The General Staff of the Army of the republic of Serb Krajina has sent a sharp protest to the command of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Zagreb and UNPROFOR Commander General Lars-Eric Wahlgren because they have forbidden villagers to work the land in a part of Sector North of this U.N.-protected area (UNPA).

The Krajina Army also protested because members of the Danish battalion of the UNPROFOR opened fire at chief-of-staff of the regional corps in Banija (northeastern Krajina) on Friday [9 April], also in Sector North.

The protest specified that Danish troops opened fire from small arms at the chief-of-staff and his escort from their point on the Sava river, in the region of the village of Blinjski Kut.

We are familiar with the partiality of the Danish battalion towards Croatia, but we have not been informed that this battalion has sided with Croatia also in its combat activities against the Serbs, said the protest.

In the same region, UNPROFOR troops do not allow the villagers to go to their fields for the spring sowing.

Concluding that it is the impression that UNPROFOR members in some situations act the same as Croatian soldiers, the protest demands that Gen. Wahlgren take serious measures in this respect.

The patience of the fighters is wearing thin, and the real intentions of certain UNPROFOR troops are seriously questioned, said the protest by the Krajina general staff.

The republic of Serb Krajina was formed in parts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia where Serbs were the majority population. This was an answer to Croatia's secession by force from Yugoslavia. The territory of the republic of Serb Krajina is entirely a U.N-protected area.

Serb Forces Shell Zadar, Biograd

LD0904140393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by Bozidar Klaric from Zadar]

[Text] Serbian paramilitary formations have not been quiet today in the Zadar-Biograd area. Following a relatively peaceful night, at about 0700 today, the Serbs fired a dozen artillery shells from Zemunik Gornji at Zadar town. At the same time Biograd was hit by about 20 missiles fired from multiple rocket launchers. There were no casualties in the attacks, but considerable material damage was caused.

After the attacks on Zadar and Biograd, formations of the Croatian Army in Zadar hinterland came under sporadic attacks from the Serbian army. Chetniks based in the temporarily occupied Biljane and Zemunik Gornji launched frequent attacks on our positions in Paljuv and Kasic. These attacks are mainly of low intensity, and were directed mainly against the village of Zemunik Donji in Ravni Kotari.

The early afternoon passed off with only sporadic enemy provocations along the Zadar frontline. Zadar and Biograd have been mainly peaceful following this morning's attacks, but a general danger warning is still in force in both towns due to the combat actions by Serbian aggressors.

RSK Reports 'Continued Aggression' From Army

LD1104140093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1335 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Knin, April 11 (TANJUG)—Croatia's Army on Sunday [11 April] continued aggression on the southwestern part of the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which is a U.N.-protected area, by opening artillery fire from all available weapons, the RSK Army General Staff has said.

According to the statement, Croatian Forces open fire from mortars and multi-rocket launchers on the RSK defence line and civilian targets in the areas of Obrovac, Benkovac, Vrlika and Drnis.

The Croatian Army has burned down the villages of Smokovic, Islam Grcki and Kasici in its "scorched-earth" operation. These villages in the Zadar hinterland were the first to be attacked in Croatia's January 22 aggression on the RSK.

The Croatian Army so eagerly destroyed the villages that "not a stone" of the housing and other facilities has been left, Benkovac-based military sources said.

The destruction of immovable property in the occupied areas is related to a possible withdrawal of the Croatian Army from those areas, in order to thwart the return of over 10,000 expelled Serbs, RSK military sources said.

Statistical data and annual surveys show that most of these settlements were populated solely by Serbs. Smokovic had 401 homes with 1,600 villagers, Kasic 155 homes with 772 villagers and only in Islam Grcki which had some 300 homes, about 30 Croats lived along with 1,128 Serbs.

The Croatian Army destroyed also valuable monuments of Serb material and spiritual culture, which witnessed about centuries-old presence of Serbs in the region

Most of the 8,000 hectares of fruit plantations and vineyards belonging to the three villages were also destroyed by the Croatian Army.

According to the 1991 data, the villagers possessed one million vine plants and 140,000 trees of each Marasca cherry and peach.

Susak Urges More UN Presence in Sector South

LD1004192693 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] In connection with the aggressor's latest attacks along the frontline of Sector South, and artillery and missile strikes against civilians and civilian facilities, Gojko Susak, the minister of defense of the Republic of Croatia, sent a letter to Brigadier General Lars Eric Wahlgren.

The obvious intention was to provoke the Croatian army to return fire in order to accuse it of not observing the cease-fire. The Croatian defense minister goes on to say that, through strikes against coastal towns, the Serb rebels want to demonstrate their technical superiority, owing to which they can at any moment strike unprotected citizens in order to cause permanent uncertainty and fear. In connection with this, Minster Susak calls on the UN Protection Force to take necessary steps to increase their forces in sector south, especially along the frontline and in places where the aggressor's artillery and armored units are positioned.

This would, in the spirit of the agreement signed recently in Geneva, establish control over the aggressor's artillery, which is a precondition for the implementation of the agreement and UN Security Council Resolutions 815 and 802.

Serb Krajina Begins Training of Army

LD1004230293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2221 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Beli Manastir, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—The training of the first generation of cadets of the Serbian army of Krajina [SVK—Srpska Vojska Krajina] has begun in Baranja today, on St. Lazarus's Day, a TANJUG correspondent was told in the press center of the SVK main headquarters for Baranja.

Preparations for the training of cadets began a month ago in accordance will all rules of professional army and military academies. As it has been announced, training plans and programs of the famous 63rd Parachute Unit of the Yugoslav army will be followed.

At today's ceremony of blessing the units and the barracks, the command of the Baranja Division handed a war flag to the ceremonial unit.

Prime Minister, Assembly Chairman Receive Iranian Speaker

NC1004072793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Islamic Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri met Croatian Prime Minister Nikica Valentic yesterday afternoon. During this meeting Nateq-Nuri called for increased effort on the part of Croatian officials to improve relations between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Nateq-Nuri said that if the Muslims and Croats could be united, the Serbs would not be able to defeat them. He compared the Serbs to the Zionists, adding: These two groups know no limits in attacking and annihilating civilians.

Valentic stressed the territorial integrity and solidarity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for broadening economic relations between Tehran and Zagreb.

The first round of talks between Nateq-Nuri and his Croatian counterpart was held in Zagreb yesterday. Croatian Assembly Speaker Stipe Mesic referred to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and said: Instead of assisting the Muslims and Croats, the international community imposed an arms embargo on them. Serbia on the other hand has no problems procuring arms and even exports them.

According to IRNA, Nateq-Nuri spoke of common interests between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Croatia, saying: The Bosnia-Herzegovina catastrophe has destroyed the prestige of the European Continent and the entire international community. He criticized the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has tied the hands of the oppressed against tyranny.

Jansa 'Welcomes' Enforcement of No-Fly Zone

AU0904165293 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Slovenia welcomes the long-awaited decision by NATO to enforce the no-fly zone above Bosnia-Herzegovina, Defense Minister Jansa stated today. He also stressed that the decision was important for Slovenia, primarily because it reduces the possibility of foreign military aircraft violating Slovenian air space, which has recently been the case.

Peterle Congratulates Macedonia on UN Admission

AU0904171393 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Slovenia welcomes the admittance of Macedonia into the United Nations. Slovene Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle praised the decision of the UN General Assembly, especially since Slovenia was one of the main initiators of Macedonia's admittance into the organization.

State Chamber Chairman Herman Rigelnik on this occasion sent a congratulatory telegram to Macedonian Assembly Chairman Stojan Andov. Rigelnik, among other things, wished Macedonia much progress and development and reminded the chairman of the friendly relations between the two states.

Serbs Recruit 'Volunteers' From Slovenia

93BA0824G Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 22 Mar 93 p 2

[Article by Milovan Dimitric: "The Serbs Are 'Inviting' Volunteers"]

[Text] *The Serbian authorities have exact records of Serbs from the occupied areas of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; if they do not respond to the invitation, what follows is....; they also pay a "liberation tax."*

Novo Mesto, 21 Mar—A few days ago, a small group of Serbian volunteers left Dolenjsko for the occupied areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Several such groups have already left, and all of them went in response to a summons from the Serbian authorities. The volunteers are primarily Serbs from Bosnia-Herzegovina and from the occupied areas of Croatia. The Serbian authorities obviously have very exact data on the people whom they are "inviting" to join their ranks.

Why are quotations marks needed for the word "inviting"? Because this is actually a draft. The Serbian authorities are conducting it in accordance with the military records of the former JLA [Yugoslav People's Army] and the military departments of the municipalities that they have occupied. First of all they summon the "volunteers" by letter, and then Serbian emissaries personally visit those who do not respond. The letters are mailed in Slovenia or delivered by couriers, since some of them also lack stamps.

They Have To Defend Their Family and Property...

The persuasion in the "invitation" can be different. In addition to patriotic outpourings about the threat to Serbdom and so forth, they address each individual separately. They remind some people that they have parents, brothers and sisters, or other relatives in the occupied areas, who need protection. Sometimes there is also a recommendation attached from a father, mother, brother, or sister to the addressee that he respond to the call from the threatened Serbian people. If there is no response or it is unsuitable, "friends" tell him that they cannot protect his relatives from justifiably angered fellow villagers or fellow town residents, who are extremely irritated that he is waiting in safety in Slovenia while others have to protect his family and the threatened Serbian honor. They also invite those whose relatives otherwise withdrew from the occupied areas in time, but left their property there. They are reminded that the Serbian Krajinas are short of people to protect their property, which is constantly threatened by the Mujaheddin and the Ustase.... In a third category are those who have neither relatives nor property. They are first of all warned that they will never be able to return to their home areas again unless they respond to the present cry from the defenseless Serbian people. In personal persuasion, they are reminded that the Krajina people still have many friends in Slovenia, patriotic people, who can suddenly turn up out of nowhere (because of their age, they cannot go to the front themselves) to punish those who do not want to respond to the draft.

...Otherwise They Will Be Run Over by a Car

The more intimidated ones claim that the occupation authorities are really persecuting, jailing, or sending to the front lines those whose relatives were invited to join the volunteers but did not respond. Others claim that it is not true, that it is propaganda, and that for the time being there is no proof of it at all. There is also no evidence that unsympathetic "invitee" in Slovenia has been run over by a car because he did not respond—as he was threatened. So far it is only known that some people who did not respond have had their homes completely plundered—obviously a tax, cynics comment. To be sure, all residents of the occupied areas of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina living in Slovenia have to pay a "liberation tax." It amounts to 100 marks a month per person, and the head of the family also has to pay it for children. They are not familiar with tax breaks, and unemployment is not an acceptable excuse. Those who do not pay have part of their property stolen from their homes. If they cannot pay and they would not like to lose their property, they have to come and work off the tax, i.e., fight for a certain time. In the meantime they take leave in Slovenia, or if they are unemployed, in one way or another no one misses them. If they pay the tax, they

receive a corresponding certificate (just like the Muslims, only the latter collect 50 marks each per month), and that is proof that they have to be left in peace by various tax collectors and Krajina militias when they visit their village. If they want to send their relatives money, the "postage" amounts to one-tenth. The money is carried by the drivers of trucks with Bosnia-Herzegovina license plates.

Times Are Hard, and That Is Why the Tax Is High

For some time the pressure to pay the tax was considerable, since it was necessary to compensate mercenaries from Romania and Russia, but obviously not enough money is being collected from them in spite of the tax, since they are leaving the Serbian Krajinas en masse. Reportedly the mercenaries are also unreliable, since, for example, it was their fault that the front line near Bosanski Otok was shifted, namely by two and a half kilometers at the expense of the Serbs. When the Muslims attacked them, they fled headlong, and abandoned two tractor trailers full of ammunition, and the Muslims were stopped by Serbian volunteers.

Reportedly, both of the self-styled Serbian republics think that the critical moment has come when they have to conquer as much as they can, because dangerous times are coming. There is also an opportunity because of Ramadan, when the Muslims, after a month of fasting, will be exhausted and thus weaker. More fighters will also be needed in the Krajinas because of the unfavorable conjunction of international circumstances.

It is explained to the volunteers that the good relations between the occupation authorities and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force], after the departure of Indian General Satish Nambiar, are crumbling. Butrus-Ghali is having an increasingly more difficult time defending Serbian interests, because he is under strong German pressure, including financial pressure. Russia is allegedly too busy with the removal of Yeltsin, and the new UNPROFOR commander is too European-oriented and therefore biased. The position of Mitterrand and the French Socialists, who understand the Serbs, is allegedly increasingly weaker, and after the French elections they will probably be blocked; the English, because of Thatcher, are also supposed to have retreated from their otherwise traditional Serbian allies. Owen and Vance, in their opinion, have swallowed their promise of assistance in forming a Bosnia in accordance with the Serbian concepts, because they are obviously under American influence. The Americans are reportedly demanding some rights for "Turkish vermin" because of pressure from the rich Arab fundamentalist states.

Arms Embargo Hampers Police Operations

93BA0824F Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 20 Mar 93 p 2

[Article by Zarko Hojnik: "The Criminal Community Can Monitor the Work of the Police"]

[Text] *The removal of the embargo on arms imports is necessary for the work of the police, who have been left almost without cartridges, gas equipment, and spare parts for radio communications.*

Ljubljana, 19 Mar—The embargo on importing arms, ammunition, and other technical equipment, which also applies to our country, and the removal of which was announced for March, would alleviate [as published] the critical situation that the Slovene police are in. Lojze Peterle sent a letter to the United Nations to have it remove the above ban for our country, but there has been no news from there that anything has changed. In the meantime, our police are already short of the necessary spare parts for radio communications, and also gas equipment and cartridges.

Slovene Interior Minister Ivan Bizjak is especially concerned about the shortage of spare parts for several hundred radio communications systems that the police need in their regular work. The present ones are such that anyone can eavesdrop on them, since in his opinion, they do not have any technical protection at all and the criminal community is easily monitoring the police's work. This is particularly felt with respect to special police operations, which ought to take place in strict secrecy. A case is known in which the entire operation failed because of eavesdropping.

Also, one should not overlook the fact that abroad, for 50 marks anyone can buy freely shortwave receivers, and with them it is possible to "intercept" the radio frequency of police stations. The police should therefore immediately buy new communications, or at least spare parts to prevent eavesdropping.

The same thing is also happening with international communications, since we have learned that the embargo even applies to the encrypted facsimile that is connected with Interpol, even though our police were accepted into that international organization last November. Germany's intervention to establish that link has obviously not yet yielded results. Another problem is gas sprayers, which are part of policemen's regular equipment. In meetings with foreign diplomats Ivo Bizjak, as he confirmed for us, has emphasized on several occasions the need to remove the embargo on importing police equipment, which also includes ammunition and cartridges.

We do not have any manufacturer of cartridges here, for which a special gunpowder is needed, and we do not produce it in our country. If each of the approximately 5,000 policemen fired only 10 cartridges a year for training, which is far too few for regular training, the

urgently needed stocks would disappear immediately. It is probably unnecessary to mention in particular how things are in this regard with the training of the Interior Ministry's special unit, whose members have to be constantly physically fit and trained in firing various weapons.

The manufacturers of hunting ammunition are likewise constantly complaining about difficulties with gunpowder, which is reportedly already chronically in short supply. Also, all the citizens who own the 78,428 various weapons are waiting for the removal of the embargo in order to be able to buy appropriate cartridges abroad or in domestic shops. Their only choice is thus to cope as well as they can—including by smuggling ammunition, even though many of them are taking the risk of encountering the misdemeanor judge, or even a complaint to the prosecutor's office....

Economic Agreement Signed With PRC

93BA0831B Ljubljana SLOVENEC in Slovene 24 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Economic Rapprochement of Slovenia and China"]

[Text] Ljubljana—A bilateral agreement between the Republic of Slovenia and the People's Republic of China on the mutual protection, representation, and encouragement of investments was initialed yesterday at the Slovene Foreign Ministry.

The agreement, which is expected to be signed in the spring at a session of the first joint Slovene-Chinese committee, was initialed for the Slovene side by Nives Marinsek, under secretary in the Ministry of Economic Relations and Development, and for the Chinese side, by Juejiao Chang, deputy director of the legal department at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Juejiao Chang, upon the initialing of the agreement, expressed the conviction that from now on China would have more investments in Slovenia. Nives Marinsek said that so far cooperation with China had been favorable, but economic relations had only begun to develop after Slovenia became independent.

"The signing of such an agreement is certainly one of the foundations for developing economic relations, since the flow of capital and goods is the first condition for strengthening such relations with any country," Under Secretary Marinsek said. She said that in China, there were considerable opportunities, since it was a large market in which the Slovene economy would have to be promoted sooner or later.

Through this agreement, the two countries are protecting investors, which is the first condition for the flow of capital from one country to another. With its legal succession to the former Yugoslavia, Slovenia took over a large part of the agreements concluded by the former federation, and now it is preparing its own, which will be sent to all the countries, Nives Marinsek said.

The next countries with which Slovenia intends to conclude such an agreement are Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and several other countries, to which Slovenia has already sent a proposal for negotiations.

Federal

Government Decides To Devalue Dinar Against Dollar

LD0904174493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1611 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—At the proposal of the the National Bank of Yugoslavia, the Federal Government today passed a decision to devalue the dinar. One U.S. dollar will be worth 48,000 dinars for the purpose of all foreign economic transactions, while the exchange rate will be 40,000 dinars to a dollar with regard to customs duties and other taxes as well as foreign currency deposit accounts.

Currency Reserves 'Sufficient' for Country's Liquidity

LD0904192193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1737 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—Zarko Trbojevic, a representative of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, said at this evening's news conference in the Palace of the Federation that Yugoslavia's foreign currency reserves are sufficient to ensure the country's liquidity.

Without specifying the amount, Trbojevic just said that the reserves are restricted and that they must be kept as high as possible to allow a stabilization program to be implemented at the end of the blockade.

Jovanovic: 'Legitimate Interests' of Serbs Must be Respected

LD1104173793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1712 GMT 11 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Kragujevac, April 11 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic has said that it is becoming increasingly clear that the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and elsewhere in the territories of former Yugoslavia cannot be resolved without respect of the fact that Serbs are the largest nation in the central part of the Balkans.

That is why there can be no stable or lasting political solution without respect of the legitimate interests of the Serb people, Jovanovic said.

In a statement to Radio Kragujevac, Jovanovic assessed that the attempt had failed to force a solution which would be directly damaging to the Serb people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The process of resolving the Bosnian crisis is now being stepped up through attempts to renew the peace process with an acceptable offer and successfully to close it in the shortest possible time, Jovanovic said.

In addition to different forms of pressure, blackmail and intimidation, Jovanovic said, other possibilities are now being mentioned, democratic ones, which do not prejudge a solution. He said that this could serve as an [word indistinct] for a more balanced and useful approach to the current controversial parts of the Vance-Owen peace plan.

Some forces in the European Community (E.C.), Germany in particular, insist on continued pressure on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through sanctions "in order to achieve some undeclared goals," the federal foreign minister said. These forces have got followers in some Islamic countries, in the United States and elsewhere, Jovanovic said.

However, when the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is over and a political solution is found, "no-one who wishes to keep the sanctions will be able to get the support of the international community any longer," Jovanovic said, and added that French President Francois Mitterrand had directly linked the lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia with an end to the war in Bosnia.

Kontic Outlines New Economic Strategies

AU1104202593 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Interview with Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic by Milica Ostojic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Assembly recently adopted amendments to six system regulations. The Federal Government included in them most of its demands from the withdrawn intervention law. The devaluation of the dinar is one of the measures with which these regulations are implemented. Dr. Radoje Kontic, federal prime minister, will talk about the program in tonight's program Talks With a Reason.

In this newscast we feature an excerpt from the program, which will be shown on the first channel of Serbian Television at about 2145. Afterward you can see the interview with Dr. Vojin Bijelica, governor of the National Bank of Vojvodina.

[Ostojic] What has the Federal Government done to implement the programs you announced after the elections?

[Kontic] First let me thank you for your invitation and for giving me a chance to introduce myself to our viewers. Now let me answer your question. I would like to start by saying that, in my address to Assembly on 2 March, I said that under the sanctions, a consistent anti-inflation or stabilization program is not possible. The reasons are well known: The economy is restricted, there is a lack of capital, a lack of goods, a lack of competition, and so on, I need not list all these things.

The fact is that holding down the inflation rate, which has been several hundred percent in recent months, would very soon lead to financial collapse, which of course gives the government the responsibility to set

some more moderate goals, that is, to secure a stop to some negative trends not only where inflation is concerned, but in all other economic criteria. Of course, we started working on that from the very first day, and we have come up with a strategy for economic policy—since, as I have just said, it could not have been a stabilization program, which can be implemented only after the sanctions are lifted. That program is based on four foundation stones, if I can express myself in such a symbolic way, focusing on reducing public expenditure, which is one of the main sources of inflation. Secondly, it is based on reviving production in those sectors that have domestic markets. Thirdly, it is based on organizing the economic and financial sector and introducing financial discipline. Of course no program could hold without the fourth foundation stone, which I will conditionally call for the moment the social complex.

Minister: Minority Law 'in Line With' World Standards

LD1104182693 Budapest MTI in English 1757 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 11 (MTI)—Yugoslavia's Minority Bill, currently under preparation, will be in line with international standards and will concern all national minorities in the country, Minority and Human Rights Minister of the new Yugoslav Cabinet Margit Savovic told MTI on Sunday [11 April].

The bill will serve as a basis for dialogue with minorities in future and, hopefully, everyone will be pleased with it, Savovic, a member of the Vojvodina Serb Socialist Party, said.

Speaking about the South Slav crisis, Savovic criticized the international community for introducing what she called "unfounded sanctions" against Yugoslavia, despite the fact that "not a single Yugoslav soldier is fighting in Bosnia".

"At the same time, although the Croat Army Is present there, no embargo against Croatia has been ordered. A double standard is used," she said.

Asked whether she has already had talks with minority leaders and whether she feels boycotted, Savovic said: "I am ready for talks with anyone who wants talks, without any preconditions. There is no boycott whatsoever: Over the short time I have spent in office so far, I attended plenty of meetings and I always do my best to help..."

Savovic, a professor of mathematics at the Subotica College, was previously a minister in charge of minorities in the Vojvodina Government. She said she accepted her present post in the Cabinet that was set up last month mainly as a party assignment.

"The post is a great challenge but it is more of an obligation, with the danger of arriving at false consequences always present. I try to check all the facts before I make any decision. I do not regard politics as my vocation and I hope that after my term expires I can return to my career as a teacher," Savovic said.

Bulajcic on International Court for War Crimes

LD1104123093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1157 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 11 (TANJUG)— The UN Security Council Resolution 808 on the founding of an international criminal court for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia, is meant to punish a state and its people, said Yugoslav State Commission for War Crimes and Crimes of Genocide Secretary Milan Bulajic in a statement to TANJUG.

Bulajic, a former Yugoslav diplomat underlines the international community's unsuccessful attempts over the last 100 years at setting up an international court for trying war criminals and says that its forming depends of the will of the great powers.

The setting up of an international court for war crimes and crimes of genocide is useful for the objective establishing of facts with regard to committed crimes, because the functioning of such a court requires a prosecutor, counsel for the defence and rules of procedure.

However, in the case of Yugoslavia, an attempt is being made at introducing a "legally incomprehensible precedent," said Bulajic.

The UN Security Council took 55 minutes on February 22 to adopt unanimously a resolution for the setting up of a criminal court for the former Yugoslavia. After the decision, several drafts of such a court appeared, and by the end of April the Security Council should reach a decision on which variant it will accept.

The last time the international community set up courts to try war crimes and crimes against humanity was in Nuremberg and Tokyo.

As these crimes do not come under the statute of limitations, a permanent court, with regard to the prosecution and trial of war criminals, would have to have an unbiased stand towards all world conflicts. The court would try the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the Korean, Vietnam, Afghanistan wars and in conflicts in Latin America and Africa.

"The United States are bombing Iraq under the mantle of the United Nations, they have sent interventionist troops to Somalia, but they haven't asked for the setting up of an international court which would deal with violations of international humanitarian law," said Bulajic.

The Security Council does not wish to discuss the possibility of setting up a permanent court, but at the U.S. initiative it has decided to form an ad hoc court for the former Yugoslavia, said Bulajic.

Bulajic believes that the UN and the world public must raise the question why the Security Council, at the U.S. Government's initiative, is forming an international court for trying violations of international humanitarian law solely in the former Yugoslavia, and why the UN have accepted the U.S. stand for determining only individual responsibility, without determining responsibility for the causes of the crime.

Karadzic, Jovanovic View Peace Talks, NATO Operation

AU1104142193 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] In an interview with Radio Kragujavac, [Bosnian Serb leader] Radovan Karadzic said that the Serbian republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] had to have clear territorial continuity and links with Serbia. If the Serbian republic gets the corridors, it will be willing to give the other side other parts of the country, which would then lead to peace.

Vladislav Jovanovic, federal foreign minister, told the same radio station that peace in Bosnia would mean lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia. Here is more from the interviews as excerpted by our correspondent Zoran Glisovic.

[Begin recording] The attempt to force a solution that would be at the direct expense of the Serbian people in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been proven unsuccessful. Now all the relevant international parties are aware that there can be no solution to the crisis without satisfying the inalienable rights of the Serbian people, who have not just arrived from Serbia to Bosnia-Herzegovina to occupy someone else's land, but are fighting on their land for their land. That is the essence of what was said in today's exclusive interview with Radio Kragujevac by Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian republic, and Vladislav Jovanovic, federal foreign minister. They were speaking for the program Mark of the Times.

Regardless of the increased pressure, that is, the insistence—particularly by Germany—on the continuity of that pressure as accepted by some Islamic countries and the United States, no one wants to make a leap into the uncertain. Particularly, Jovanovic said, as no one has either the legal or political platform for such a move, since the sanctions are connected to the war in Bosnia. The minute the conflict ends and a political solution is found, no one who favors further sanctions against Yugoslavia will be able to get support from the wider international community for them. That was clear even when President Mitterrand made a direct connection between these two most important facts, and is further clarified by the recent statements by Lord Owen and some Russian officials. Therefore, Jovanovic said, regardless of the moves leading to a hermetical isolation of Yugoslavia, which are, the opinion is, only part of the strategy, we are in a favorable position to insist on an end to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The solutions can already be seen, Karadzic told Radio Kragujevac, adding that the Serbian republic would give up some of its larger conquered territories for corridors toward Serbia through province number three, and from Herzegovina to Mount Romanija and on to Zvornik. That would bring about peace and save the whole. [sentence as heard]. Much depends on the international community, however, which if it wants the war to end, is able to bring that about, but if it does not want it to end, then it can escalate it.

As for the announcement that as of tomorrow the NATO planes would control the Bosnia-Herzegovina sky, Karadzic said that the Serbian side, whose planes have not flown since last October, would observe everything carefully and not respond to even possible provocations. If the (?unjust) sanctions are tightened against Yugoslavia, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Serbs, he stressed, would leave the negotiations. [end recording]

FRY Prime Minister Kontic Interviewed

93BA0822B Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 19 Mar 93 pp 16-18

[Interview with FRY Prime Minister Dr. Radoje Kontic, by Luka Miceta; date and place not given: "What Will Become of Us"]

[Text] *"Mr. Panic's method of operation is different from the method that I intend to foster. That is probably a result of his experience as a manager, which forced him work on his own and make decisions on his own."*

Dr. Radoje Kontic, the former director of Niksic Iron Mills, has been a politician since 1978. Then-Prime Minister Veselin Djuranovic installed him in the government as a minister without portfolio.

The next mandatary of the SIV [Federal Executive Council], Milka Planinc, did not include him in her administration. Kontic then left to take the post of vice prime minister of Montenegro. In 1986, an SIV was formed by Branko Mikulic in which Kontic was, as with Djuranovic, a minister without portfolio, until 1989. In March of that year, he was elected Montenegrin prime minister, where he stayed for two years.

He returned to the federal government as deputy prime minister under Milan Panic.

"I am first and foremost a businessman, even if I have been in politics for 15 years. I was forced into it, although I have never had any affinity for politics."

Communicative, clear, and open—when giving answers and when avoiding them—Kontic gives the impression of a man aware of the coordinate system in which he acts, as well as of the authorities that he has at his disposal.

[Miceta] The consultations on the federal administration were accompanied by certain difficulties. Did you discuss the composition of your administration with Milosevic?

[Kontic] Why, I do not know if that is important. I spoke with a number of people, with economists, professors, engineers, labor union figures, with economic chambers, with representatives of the government and opposition. But in the end I am the one who formed the cabinet.

When a cabinet is formed, the basic problem is not whether the mandatary talks to this individual or that one; rather, the problem is to create a homogeneous team of professionals, experts, who will be capable of implementing the program. Most people regard the cabinet as a group of individuals, but I see the cabinet in the function of the program that I presented in the Assembly.

[Miceta] That means that your program is the foundation on which you chose your team?

[Kontic] Absolutely. The impression that you journalists have, as well as others, I think has been intensified by this unnecessary dramatization in the Assembly, when I had to present my program and justify the composition of the administration

[Miceta] To what extent were you dissatisfied with the work of the previous administration, in which you were vice prime minister, and what sort of changes will you make in your administration?

[Kontic] The biggest difference between my and the previous administration, in my opinion, lies in the method of operation. In the previous administration, the method of individuality in work was fostered. My method is different. It is based most of all on collectivity, on teamwork. That is the essential difference. Before I make some decision, I first consult not only with my ministers but also with many other people, experts in the particular field.

As far as my dissatisfaction with the previous administration is concerned, I must say that this question is rather delicate. What does being satisfied with the work of an administration mean?

Mr. Panic's method of operation is different from the method that I intend to foster. That is probably a result of his experience as a manager, which forced him work on his own and make decisions on his own. I would rather not go into detail here.

[Miceta] It is felt that your cabinet is not an expert one?

[Kontic] I see that the question of cabinet composition is a very interesting matter. It turns out that it is such an essential question that no one is even talking about the program. I have yet to see anyone conduct an analysis of my administration's program.

[Miceta] Regardless of how good any program is, if it is not implemented by good players, then it is worthless?

[Kontic] Yes, but even good players cannot realize a bad program.

Your question implies that the cabinet is unprofessional, or rather that it is incapable of doing its duty. What is the basis for that conclusion?

[Miceta] You drew that conclusion.

[Kontic] That follows logically from the question. I do not know if I can deny that by saying that of the 20 members of the cabinet, eight are doctors of science, meaning one in three, while two have master's degrees, which means that almost half of the members of the cabinet have academic titles, and naturally they all have a college education. I do not know what can be said about a cabinet like this, and I do not know what "expert government" means.

[Miceta] Not every college graduate is an expert, nor is every doctor of science an expert.

[Kontic] That is true, but one must conduct an analysis of each individual minister. I must say that I think that that title has been profaned somewhat. Look, even though I have been in two administrations, I do not understand what this term "expert" means. I know what a coalition government is, a minority one, a concentrated one, a government of national salvation, a bureaucratic one, etc. The concept of an expert government has never been completely clear to me.

[Miceta] What does an administration's good economic program mean in the situation in which Yugoslavia currently finds itself, and what is your administration's duty today?

[Kontic] It cannot be the duty of the federal administration to lower hyperinflation to the level that would be suitable to Western European countries under sanction conditions. The duty of the federal administration is to perform a bypass operation, to use a popular term, i.e., to lower inflation to a level that would make it possible to postpone economic collapse, or rather to keep it from happening until the sanctions are lifted. The period after the lifting of the sanctions means the application of a serious, consistent stabilization program. When the economy is open, when communication with the world is moving, when we have a presence on the capital market, only then can we create the possibility of ensuring the stabilization of economic trends. Naturally, we are preparing an appropriate program for that moment.

For right now, we are preparing a program for living under the sanctions. I do not like to call it a survival project, because survival implies something different. In this program it is not enough to simply lower public spending; rather, we must also raise national income, the social product, and create new values. Thus, we will have two parallel processes: on the one hand, cuts in the area of public spending, while on the other hand we will

promote the creation of conditions for the production of new values, i.e., raising national income so that the pie that we are dividing can be to everyone's satisfaction.

[Miceta] It appears, however, that one very limiting factor emerges here—the republican administrations. How do you harmonize the work of three administrations to perform this bypass operation? One gets the impression that these three administrations do not correspond as they should? How will you neutralize the obstruction by the republican administrations?

[Kontic] I am not even sure where these questions linked to the work of the republican administrations and the federal administration came from. I assume that this is the burden of experience from the past. I must tell you that we have no problems whatsoever in working with the republican administrations. There is no obstruction whatsoever by either administration. In preparing the federal administration's program, I had serious talks with the republican prime ministers. On those occasions, we cleared up many issues.

[Miceta] What was the basic issue?

[Kontic] The basic issue was whether we want to form a common state in accordance with what is specified by the FRY Constitution. I received an absolutely affirmative response by both leaderships. Incidentally, that was the basic condition for my accepting the post of mandatary.

From the short period since the administration has been in office, I must say that we have achieved full agreement on all issues.

[Miceta] Have you tried to convince the republican leaderships to abolish the departments that logically belong to the federal state, such as the ministries of foreign affairs and defense?

[Kontic] Thus far, I have had no need to convince anyone. My demand was that a Republic of Yugoslavia be constituted in accordance with a new constitution, and that the new constitution state that security and defense are a unified function, that all of this is a unified economic area, etc. Accordingly, these functions must be performed on the level of the FRY. Immediately after our administration was formed, we took steps to transfer these functions to the federal level. Naturally, this is not always that simple.

[Miceta] However, there have been situations, such as the occupation of the Federal SUP [Secretariat of Internal Affairs] building, where there was a demonstration of strength by a republican authority in relation to a federal one. Are similar actions possible during your term in office?

[Kontic] That is a hypothetical question. From past work and experience I can freely say that there is absolute trust between the federal administration and the republican administrations. Moreover, I must note that I am a personal friend of both prime ministers....

[Miceta] Which is not unimportant?

[Kontic] Of course it is not unimportant. That is why I think that from this standpoint, there will be no problems whatsoever in terms of communication between the three administrations. That does not mean that there will not be very intense, diverse political options and demands in certain other domains or on certain other levels.

[Miceta] Do you think that there could be a parting of the ways between Serbia and Montenegro?

[Kontic] In terms of political orientation, I belong to the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro. Accordingly, I have chosen the political option endorsed by that party. Thus, the party to which I belong, together with the Socialist Party of Serbia, is the de facto main creator of the new constitution where Serbia and Montenegro comprise one modern, democratic, rule-of-law, and social state. Only thus and in that context can I see Montenegro and Serbia. Certain transient and marginal interests do not affect my general orientation.

[Miceta] We have learned that the Montenegrin leadership sees the problem with "Jugoskandik" as a blow by the Serbian leadership. It is now treating it primarily as a legal-economic problem and still refuses to emphasize it as a political problem, which it fundamentally is.

[Kontic] I will not get into this sort of speculation, nor do I wish to comment on such matters in any way. We do not have time to lose on affairs of that type if they no not have any other character and if they are not linked to the state.

[Miceta] Do you think that this is not a big enough affair for the federal government to get involved?

[Kontic] I do not know, for now it is not. This problem is primarily under the jurisdiction of the republican authorities. I am withholding comment because people could say, "Well, Kontic is Montenegrin, so he is commenting on 'Jugoskandik' in this way or that."

[Miceta] Yes, but "Jugoskandik" has extensive ties with Montenegro as well.

[Kontic] As far as I know, it opened the Private Economy Bank there.... Otherwise, I can tell you that I have never in my life met Jezdimir Vasiljevic.

[Miceta] Have your experts studied the consequences of the collapse of the "Jugoskandik" system, which in a certain sense preserved social peace just as it is being preserved by Dafiment Bank as well?

[Kontic] Social peace cannot be preserved by redistributions. This is a question of the effect on inflation and on the spread of the gray economy. At present, this has effects from time to time, while viewed in the long run the consequences are absolutely negative. One of the measures that we are preparing is in fact a showdown with black marketeering, with the gray economy, and

with all those who are turning up here. It must be said that 37 out of every 100 dinars in 1992 went into the gray economy in Yugoslavia, into an economy that is beyond state control. Do you know what that means? Society is actually stratifying into the super-rich and the impoverished. There is no middle class, which is a big problem for our society and its progress.

[Miceta] What can the federal government do to stabilize the financial situation?

[Kontic] We are working on that program right now. I hope that we will be able to make it public in about 10 days.

[Miceta] Can you tell us the basic elements of that program?

[Kontic] I am sorry, but I really cannot say anything about it right now, because the program is not yet complete.

[Miceta] In Serbia, the anticrime campaign has assumed large proportions. How would you react if, say, one of your ministers was arrested for criminal activity? Would you resign, or would you at least provide some explanation?

[Kontic] That is a purely moral question. Naturally that would not be a simple thing for me. What action I would take would depend on many things. If it involved something completely independent of me and the work of the government, something that I was objectively unable to influence, then in that case I think that I would not feel responsible.

[Miceta] What is your view of the further development of the situation concerning the president of Yugoslavia, given the fact that Mr. Seselj recently said that Dobrica Cosic will remain in the post of president only 15 days longer?

[Kontic] As far as the federal administration is concerned, it will provide its opinion on this initiative. It is currently in preparation. I personally value Mr. Cosic and sincerely respect him.

[Miceta] We are asking this because some people are of the opinion that it could happen that Milosevic abolishes the post of president of Serbia, becomes the president of Yugoslavia, and presents the Montenegrin leadership with a fait accompli?

[Kontic] Your ignorance of our political situation is appalling.

[Miceta] Is it true that Montenegro has settled all debts with the federation?

[Kontic] Montenegro has debts not with the federation, but rather with foreign countries. Like the iron mills where I worked for 17 years, Montenegro has paid off most of these debts.

[Miceta] Does that mean that Montenegro has no foreign debt?

[Kontic] It does not mean that. You know, not all debts are suitable for repayment. Debts to the World Bank, for example, cannot be paid off, and then there are state loans, etc. Only debts to commercial banks can be paid off. Because of the war, commercial banks figure that it is better to assume as much as they can and then sell the debts at some point for a pittance.

[Miceta] Some people are saying that this is one of the very important indicators of preparations for possible secession by Montenegro?

[Kontic] You have a rich imagination, both you and those who are saying that.

[Miceta] When do you expect the sanctions to be lifted?

[Kontic] I am deeply convinced that the sanctions will continue. A few days ago, I said that the sanctions will last even after they are lifted, because we will need a long, long time to recover. The ostensible reasons that the sanctions were imposed no longer exist. The reason for these sanctions, in my opinion, is a specific political interest of individual members of the European Community or of the international community, to be more precise, which is not that transparent. I am deeply convinced that the lifting of the sanctions will depend on the achievement of these political goals, and that after one set of conditions is met others will be required, meaning another type of political concessions, up until the point when these members of the European Community have achieved their political goals.

The consequences of the sanctions are catastrophic. It is said that we have survived! True, we have not died, but the question is what is the price of our survival? Our social product has fallen 50 percent since 1990. We had $3,000 per capita that year, and this year we will be lucky to have $1,500. That year we had 30 billion in national income, while now it has been cut in half. Last year alone, the social standard fell more than 50 percent. That is enough to see what sort of downward plunge we are in. The average wage in January was $40 per employee, but the minimum for subsistence according to the standards of the World Bank is a dollar a day. This means that according to the published figures, two-thirds of employees are at the subsistence level.

There are retrograde forces appearing on the scene, which are carrying out a full radicalization of relations, which creates fertile soil for, among other things, social discontent as the foundation for social unrest.

Right now, classic values, including our traditional values, have vanished.

Roundup of Firms' Activities—15 Mar

93BA0825 Belgrade EKONOMSKA POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 15 Mar 93 pp 39-41

[Text]SINDBANKA - BELGRADE: ADVANTAGE TO CAPITAL

Capital increased (235 times) more than inflation and reached 4 billion dinars (2.7 million marks) in 1992. A major authorization for business with other countries and the registration of its own commercial firm are expected.

Sindbanka increased its capital by 235 times in 1992 to about 4 billion dinars or 2.7 million marks. Capital increased faster than inflation (137 times). A real increase in comparison to the previous year of 2.3 million marks was achieved. Providing for the revaluation of capital, the Bank increased its own share in the balance to about 37.4 percent.

The greatest part of the capital, about 60 percent, is of private origin. For this reason, the bank could be called private. Naturally, others' funds, mainly of a short-term nature, which flow chiefly from commission and interbanking transactions (5.4 billion dinars), as well as deposits (558 million), primarily of trade unions, also have a great importance. In the structure of the average status in accounts of depositors, trade unions have the greatest share, about 60 percent (compared to 90 percent in 1991).

The growth in deposits by 152 times last year indicates a real lag behind inflation (a shortfall in the economy and of trade unions). Nevertheless, with the intention of protecting themselves as much, depositors cooperated with the bank in transactions in which the underestimates were greatest (for example, in connection with the mandatory reserve).

Sindbanka does not engage in trade in goods, like other new banks, and is not included in the games of realizing high profits on exchange rate differences either. Among other things, it desires with such activity to provide as soon as possible for an extensive authorization for engaging in transactions with foreign countries and to attract foreign capital (along with attaining the status of a mixed bank).

In 1992 the bank realized income (6 billion dinars) that was greater than expenditures (2 4 billion). It attempted to provide from income for the greatest possible revaluation of capital (with this it also avoided the outflow of the more than 40 percent tax on gross earnings). After this it showed gross earnings of 57 million dinars, of which 31.6 million were dividends, i.e., an increase in capital, 22.8 million were taxes, and 2.5 million were funds.

As to operations this year, the bank does not have quantified goals. The bank intends to obtain extensive authorization for transactions with foreign countries and registration of its own commercial firm (which will also engage in production if this is possible). It is not giving up transactions with citizens, among which it mentions as an innovation interest arrangements on non-term funds (through giro and current accounts).

Finally, it intends to continue the opening of branches. It currently has three of them: in Bar (it is operating in a balanced way), Pozega (there are delays in collecting funds), and in Sabac (no results).

MORAVA INSURANCE JOINT-STOCK COMPANY IN BELGRADE

Results in an unfavorable environment. In 1992 income of 14.5 billion dinars, expenditures of 13.5 billion, and, after deducting taxes, a profit of over 120 million dinars were realized. How to reestablish business partners after the seizure of their property?

The "Morava" insurance mixed joint-stock company operated in a satisfactory manner in 1992. Total income of over 14.5 billion dinars was realized; this, after deducting expenditures of 13 billion, yielded a profit of over 120 million dinars. The distribution of profit, after deducting taxes, was directed primarily at strengthening operating funds and security funds. In addition, the entire amount of dividends was reinvested in the further increase of stock capital of the company. According to Bogdan Krbanjevic, general director of "Morava" insurance, all business activities have been financed mainly with the firm's own funds, and to a lesser extent with "expensive" short-term credit.

"Morava" insurance has succeeded in every instance in paying off claims due insurers. It has maintained a high degree of liquidity.

The positive business results have been achieved under increasingly unfavorable operating conditions. The economic system is unstable; this is shown in hyperinflation. This has led to illiquidity on the part of insured parties who were not in a position to pay insurance premiums on time. Thus it has not been possible to establish a more favorable relation between premiums and claims that have arisen. In addition, because of the blockade, a reduction in flows of goods has resulted, and with this the insuring of goods in transit.

In addition to the unfavorable environment, "Morava" insurance has also encountered some difficulties in connection with the organization of the company. At the beginning of last year, their property in Pirot was seized and all the business partners from this region and Vranje region were lost. Only the area of the Belgrade affiliate was firmly held.

However, how great the importance of the lost markets was seen in the fact that the insurance portfolio in 1991 in the Belgrade affiliate was smaller than the one in Pirot and Vranje. The company quickly succeeded in retrieving the seized property through the courts and through effective promotion of the business concept of the return of the majority of the former insurance policies.

The "Morava" mixed insurance joint-stock company was founded on 22 April 1992 by the following shareholders: the "Makedonija" insurance company in Skopje, the "Minel," "Ikarus," "Interagro," "Makosped," "Jugosped," "Interjug," and "Dinara" economic organizations in Belgrade, and the "Jugoprevoz" economic organization in Paracin. It should be mentioned that the "Makedonija" AD [joint-stock company] introduced as its share in "Morava" insurance the property of its affiliates in Belgrade, Pirot, and Vranje, but also all rights and obligations as of 1 January 1992.

The "Morava" mixed insurance joint-stock company longs to create in its operations a recognized philosophy based on promoting partner relations, not only by offering insurance services but also assisting in financing directed at easing the consequences of unemployment and the illiquidity of business partners. Among other things, this is the reason that business plans are tied to a second issuance of shares (1,500 shares of the preferred type). The aim is also to increase the number of shareholders and the amount of share capital. The intensification of its participation on the Money and Commercial Paper Exchange through the issuance of commercial notes is also intended, and all in order to increase liquid potential and the number of branches and representatives. Naturally, the marketing performance on the market will also be intensified.—Z. Grubacic

ZASTAVA-SPECIAL PURPOSE PRODUCTS

Under development without slowdown - several new products will be offered to the market this year. The market dictates a change in plans for the production assortment. Work without slowdown and a blockade of the giro account.

However satisfied they were with the balance of the physical volume of production (the plan was 98.1 percent completed) and the financial effects, they consider in "Zastava-Special Purpose Products" that in 1993, precisely because of the fact that they operated best within the framework of the "Zastava" group joint-stock company, the development of and innovation in the offer to the market must be still more intensified. Because of this specialists in the design bureau and the department for the manufacture of prototypes of new models of hunting and sporting weapons and weapons for personal defense (revolvers and pistols) are the busiest. It is already known now that in the course of 1993, "Zastava-Special Purpose Products" will offer the market new pistol models (Z-100 and Z-200) and a rifle that has the popular name "pumparica" [the pumper]. It would be no surprise if, along with these models, the promotion of still another of the articles in the development program of this factory is announced.

Market demand most directly affects the development of new products. The factory accepted the dictates of the market when it was a question of production already in progress. This is best evidenced by the fact that last year a realignment of the production plan was carried out three times, not in the part that relates to volume, but in the part that relates to product assortment. It has become an inviolable rule in the factory that the marketing services dictate plans for both volume and assortment of production. Therefore, only those hunting and sporting weapons are produced in which the market shows the greatest interest during given periods.

Such an orientation in the work of the factory has assured a continued inflow of funds (the giro account was not blocked once in the course of 1992); this has made possible a regular inflow of production material and the payment of personal wages without an interruption. As far as the continuity of production, or the supply of production materials, is concerned, the long years of orientation by the factory to domestic suppliers, who succeeded over time in mastering steels suitable for this type of product, is of decisive importance. To what extent the cooperation between "Zastava-Special Purpose Products" and its suppliers is important is seen in this detail: in the course of 1992 a stoppage in production of the CZ99 pistol occurred because of a shortage of specialized sheet metal; in cooperation with specialists of this factory, SARTID 13 in Smederevo succeeded in mastering this production and assuring the continued production of one of the most sought-after items of the Kragujevac weapons factory. Imports, as is understood in and of itself, would be, under the conditions of the blockade, a factor in the reduction of production for this factory as well as many others throughout Yugoslavia.

The blockade, regardless of the expressed absorptional power of our market where production of this type is concerned, has inflicted considerable harm on "Zastava-Special Purpose Products." First, up to the introduction of the embargo on trade with Yugoslavia, exports were worth 11.5 million dollars, and had exports been possible, the value of sales of sporting and hunting weapons and weapons for personal defense would have amounted to at least 20 million dollars in 1992, and secondly, it is indisputable that the withdrawal of the "Zastava" brand from the world arms market must be reflected, with the end of the blockade, in increased advertising costs and establishing contacts with buyers.

In "Zastava-Special Purpose Products" it is pointed out that connections with earlier business partners in the world are being taken care of and there will not be any great problems in returning to the world market. That may be so, but there remains the problem of returning anew to markets conquered over years. Therefore, among other things, the greatest attention in "Zastava-Special Purpose Products" is now being devoted to further raising quality, especially planning and design, in order to assure new penetration on the world market. A further increase in production does not have to be a priority task, but a breakthrough to new and quality products, it is certain, also remains a condition for an effective return to the world market. Last year's production, in comparison to 1991, increased by 14 percent, and this year's will move to somewhere above 200,000 units of hunting and sporting weapons; this means that the production of newly added articles will be part of this year's production volume.—M.S.

ZASTAVA-KAMIONI [TRUCKS] KRAGUJEVAC

Production for Survival

This year "Zastava-Kamioni," without the participation of IVEKO (because of the blockade imposed), plans to produce 1,200 trucks; this, in the words of Dr. Jeftimir Cvetkovic, is sufficient to provide for the personal wages of the employees, payments for cooperation, and other obligations. Thus this year's production plan is informal and called a plan for survival.

It is known that the production of trucks in Kragujevac is most directly tied to cooperation with the Italian firm IVECO, which invested about 49 percent of the capital in this enterprise. With the introduction of sanctions, the opportunity to import parts and production materials, as well as export finished trucks, was excluded. Difficulties in production are also caused by the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where several very important cooperators with the Kragujevac truck producer are located. Thus it will largely be possible to carry out the "plan for survival" since the substitution of important parts has taken place.

"Zastava-Kamioni" is prepared, with the end of the blockade, because the Italian partner is resolved to continue contributing its capital in Kragujevac, to increase truck production tenfold in comparison to this year's planned output. In the meantime, something that is little known, specialists in the factory are working most intensively on the realization of a quality program; this will be one of the more important conditions to fulfill for "Zastava" trucks to compete equally on the West European market.

21. OKTOBAR - KRAGUJEVAC

New Programs

Although "21. Oktobar" succeeded last year in substituting for the complete lighting equipment and light signals, which were formerly obtained at "Saturnus" in Ljubljana for the needs of vehicle producers in Serbia, for which the latter received the medallion of the Economic Chamber of Serbia, it moved to diversify its production program. The reason for such a step lies primarily in the free capacities of the factory after the reduction of production in the Kragujevac automobile and truck factories, but also in the concentration of personnel capable of developing new products. Thus a number of tools were built for the production of consumer goods, which are made of plastic and rust-free steel. Toys, which are made in Izola (in "Mehanoplastika") and have been included in the so-called high class, are becoming part of the "21. oktobar" program. The production of tools for the manufacture of plastic containers from the program of the OKI[Organic Chemicals Factory] in Zagreb and of tools for the manufacture of vessels of rust-free steel, like the kind Serbia has obtained from Macedonia, specifically from the "Bratstvo" factory in Ohrid, was initiated.

In "21. oktobar" they point out that the inclusion of these alternative programs does not resolve a basic problem—increasing organized production for industrial vehicles, which cannot develop to its full production capacity under the blockade. However, the fact is also pointed out here that production for buyers outside the "Zastava" group provided income last year.

SIMPO-VRANJE

Ownership Transformation

In the "Sima Pogacarevic Simpo" Holding Company (which has more than 5,000 employees) ownership transformation has not been approached rashly; this is understandable in view of the fact that it is uniting 14 specialized factories, more than 70 shops in the country, joint firms, and representative facilities in many world metropolises. Therefore, the process of privatization is more complex and responsible.

Dragan Tomic, director of the company, points out that all preparations have been carried out in regard to ownership transformation with the basic aim of preserving all capacities and creating optimal conditions for a high profit in every organizational unit.

Actually, ownership can be private, or mixed or combined, whereby the totality of the firm is not brought into question.

This year, in accordance with the program for ownership transformation, the construction of two large industrial facilities will begin—a factory for large parts and a factory for the manufacture of parts for interiors. Both will be in private ownership.

The "Dafiment" Bank in Belgrade is prepared to participate with its capital at 51 percent of investments, while the rest is being ceded to interested workers of "Simpo."

By means of shares and in other ways, the factories in the system of this holding company will gradually become private. On this basis, the construction of several smaller facilities is planned; 20,000 square meters of workspace will also be prepared for establishing smaller factories under private ownership, but their production will be geared to "Simpo's" program. In question are 50 or more new technologies.

NEW FACILITIES AND RENOVATION

The "Zastava-Kovacnica" [Zastava-Foundry] will begin the manufacture of heavy forged pieces for the needs of producers of heavy machinery and trucks. The Surface Excavation of the Copper Mine in Bor is being shut down. About 80 percent of the capacities of "Merima" are being utilized for the production of detergents.

ZASTAVA-KOVACNICA - KRAGUJEVAC:

Eight million marks into equipment

According to an agreement between "Kovacnica" and interested enterprises in Serbia (IMR [Rakovica Motor Factory] and IMT [Engine and Tractor Factory] in Belgrade, "14. oktobar" in Krusevac, and "Zastava-kamioni"), about 8 million marks will be invested in the procurement of new equipment for so-called heavy forged pieces, which will be manufactured for the needs of the factories cited. These pieces consist mainly of front axles for trucks and tractors and crankshafts for engines. The proposal calls for 5 million marks to be invested in the first phase, and the next 3 million for increasing series. "Kovacnica" is supposed to provide 40 percent of the funds, and all interested buyers of heavy forged pieces the other part of 60 percent.

"Kovacnica" and the producers of trucks, construction machinery, and tractors decided on this step because it has become impossible for them to be supplied with heavy forged pieces both from Bosnia-Herzegovina (Travnik) and through imports. The capacity of Kovacnica amounts to about 20,000 tons of heavy forged pieces yearly, and the technological readiness to undertake this job as well was shown last year when 70 new positions were set up for the needs of some large industrial facilities in Serbia.

RTB [MINING-SMELTING WORKS] - BOR

The "Cerovo" mine is opening

The well-known surface excavation of the Copper Mine in Bor, which is part of the structure of the Mining-Smelting Works, is gradually being shut down because of poor ore composition. This location has been under exploitation for a good 90 years and the new "Cerovo" mine is being opened in its place. It is located in the immediate vicinity of Bor and the first tons of copper ore will be delivered to the Bor smeltery in the middle of the year; this opens up wide prospects.

It is expected that in time installations for crushing ore and other facilities will be established. The domestic machine building industry will deliver a large part of the equipment.

The new "Cerovo" surface excavation, according to the assessments of those in the know, has a rich ore lode and is significant from the standpoint of intensive exploitation. At the end of this year or at the latest at the beginning of 1994, the opening of still another mine with surface exploitation is planned—"Cervo [as published] 2." Geological exploration of the copper mine in the area of the Bor River, the opening of which will also take place, has yielded satisfactory results.

The old Bor "Pit," with the opening of new installations, is increasing yearly production of copper ore from the current 1.4 million to 2.4 million tons, while "Cerovo" will yield 2.5 million tons of ore, of which 17,000 tons of pure copper will be obtained. The reserves of this mine are sufficient for the next 15 years, while the average content of metal in the ore is 0.7 percent.

"MERIMA" - KRUSEVAC

More than 40,000 tons of detergents

The "Merima" Chemical Industry in Krusevac plans to produce more than 40,000 tons of detergents and cosmetic and other preparations this year. The entire production is earmarked for the domestic buyer.

About 80 percent of available capacities have been utilized for the production of detergents, as the figure was in 1992, when about 42,000 tons of this product were delivered to consumers in the country. In the meantime the technology for producing ecological detergent, an advantage of which, among other things, is that it does not pollute water pipes, has been installed.

The Krusevac producer, which has reduced the fabrication of so-called industrial detergent in favor of detergent for consumer use, invested 3 million marks in 1992 in the establishment of new technological lines and an increase in production. The renovation of the plant has been completed, as has the procurement of new machinery, since which the quality of products has risen, with great economic effect.

Our correspondent Vlasto Veljkovic reports that "Merima" is in the process of introducing "compact detergent," a product for washing with a high degree of effectiveness. It is ecologically reliable and the factory in Krusevac is prepared to commit about 2 million marks for this production.

JU ENGINEERING WORKS - BELGRADE

The "Old Mountain" project

Specialists at the "JU Engineering Works" in Belgrade have prepared an inclusive study and an interesting plan under the name "Old Mountain." The basic idea of this plan is the opportunities offered by the natural and other resources of the Old Mountain, near Pirot, in the development of tourism, cattle-raising, apiculture, fruit-growing, hunting, and fishing. The plan has been presented in the Assembly of Pirot district and, among those very familiar with this situation, has aroused interest in that it offers long-term solutions based on realistic assumptions. Several basic programs have been defined—a number of sheep farms, with a capacity of 150,000 sheep, as well as facilities for the care and fattening of 35,000 young cows and for maintaining 100,000 beehives, are supposed to be built over a wide area of Old Mountain by the year 2000.

With the realization of just this part of the plan, meat, milk, wool, and honey valued at over 5 million marks can be produced yearly, according to conditions of a program for healthy food. To this should be added a program for raising turkeys, a fish farming program, the

processing of aromatic plants and wild fruit, farming and vegetable raising, the development of a tourist economy, and other programs.

Therefore it is estimated that in the first phase of the realization of the project, Old Mountain will yield more than 10 million marks in yearly income. The utilization of sandstone, natural marble, timber, and other raw materials found in this area, the exploitation of which does not require great outlays of money, is also foreseen.

Serbia

Party Leader Says Macedonian Serbs 'Most Threatened'

LD1004154593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1332 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 10 Apr (TANJUG)—Mirko Jovic, chairman of the Serbian National Renewal Party, stressed at a news conference today that currently the most threatened part of the Serb people lives on the territory of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Jovic believes that the goverments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia must have a more clearly defined stand toward the position of Serbs in that former Yugoslav republic in order to preserve their national identity. [passage omit ed]

Army Maneuvers Reported on Kosovo-Macedonia Border

LD0904214493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Marija Damjanovska from Skopje]

[Text] Just a couple of hours prior to Macedonia's admission to the United Nations under the name of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a report came through that the Serbian Army has been conducting military maneuvers with live ammunition on the Kosovo-Macedonian border for two days now and that these have been audible as far away as Skopje today. The level of defense readiness of Macedonia's army and police has been raised, according to military sources, while the media here are saying that Macedonia's admission to the United Nations was favorably received in Greece.

According to Greek forecasts the final name for Macedonia will be Upper or Slavonic Macedonia with Slavonic Macedonian people. In this connection, Risto Nikovski, under secretary in the Foreign Ministry, said that today, Macedonia is an internationally recognized subject and that it will now be able to fight for its rights—when negotiating with Greece about the development of so-called measures of trust—on an equal footing, which has not been the case so far.

Macedonia

Turkish Party Warns Against 'Threats, Pressures'

LD0904134793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1243 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—Turks in Macedonia are endangered by an increasing amount of threats and pressures directed against them by the Macedonian authorities, and they are even threatened with extinction, Erdogan Sarac, chairman of the Democratic Party of Turks in Macedonia [Demokratska partija Turaka u Makedoniji], stated at a news conference. As a result, the party has declared a state of emergency for its members and threatens to urge all ethnic Turks to emigrate to Turkey unless the Macedonian authorities take seriously this final warning and stop crude forms of harassment.

The party demands above all that the authorities stop putting pressure on Turks in eastern Macedonia, and to withdraw police forces from the Debar area in western Macedonia. It also demands that expelled teachers be reinstated to schools and that the promised appointment of a number of ethnic Turks to the post of assistant ministers be realized by 23 April.

A large number of documents and statements were presented at the news conference as evidence of an increasingly difficult position facing Turks in Macedonia.

According to the 1991 census, there are fewer than 130,000 Turks in the republic, but there is an increasing tendency for an estimated 100,000 Macedonian Muslims to declare themselves as ethnic Turks.

Montenegro

Lekic Against Proposal To Hold All-Serbian Assembly

LD1104110293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1009 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Podgorica, Apr 11 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro Miodrag Lekic stated on Sunday [11 April] that a proposal to hold an all-Serb assembly was unacceptable for Montenegro for several reasons. The proposal was made early April by the parliament of the Serb Republic set up in Serb territories in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

An all-Serb assembly would gather representatives of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, the Serb republic (S.R.), and the republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) proclaimed in the Serb-populated territory of the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Croatia.

Interviewed by Montenegro's only daily POBJEDA, Minister Lekic said "Montenegro has its constitution which demands the respect of the fundamental legal and political conduct."

He went on to say that "Montenegro's responses to the meetings whose intentions and goals remain unknown are risking to be understood as abuses of the Montenegrin people's readiness for solidarity with the Serbian people, which has many times been expressed in history."

Lekic said that the announced tighteninig of the U.N. sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) would be so much difficult for the already exhausted Montenegro that not even the possible further humanitarian aid would have any major effects.

The Montenegrin minister assessed that the largest part of the Vance-Owen plan was acceptable for all the three sides in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the process of negotiations, said he, all the sides to the conflict remain highly responsible for any rushed decisions that might only intensify the further tragedy.

Kosovo

Call for Albanian 'Assembly' Termed 'Criminal Act'

LD0904204493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1908 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 9 Apr (TANJUG)—Following the announcement of the session of the so-called assembly of the "Kosovo Republic", Tomislav Ilic, minister of justice in the Government of the Republic of Serbia, has warned that violating the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and disputing the authority of its judicial organs is a criminal act according to Article 116 of the Criminal Law, punishable by a prison sentence of between 5 and 15 years, a statement from the Information Ministry of the Republic of Serbia said this evening.

The direct threat to legitimize implementation of judicial authority is a criminal act violating independence according to Article 117 of the Criminal Law for which a prison sentence of up to 15 years is envisaged. Calling for a session of the illegal assembly of the "Republic of Kosovo" is classified as instigation and a call for a change to the state system with foreign help, which means the direct intention to forcibly change the constitutional system.

Therefore, the justice minister warns that the criminal law of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of the Republic of Serbia will be applied to anyone who commits a criminal act on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of the Republic of Serbia and adds that the criminal law is also applicable to foreigners if they commit a criminal act on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

The principled stance that the law has to be applied equally to everyone who acts contrary to the rules defined by law remains the main guideline for the judicial organs of the Republic of Serbia. With this conviction, the justice minister thinks that all citizens and all those who find themselves on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will respect the system and the regulations of the Republic of Serbia, the statement of the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Serbia says.

Serbian Official Denies Albanians' Rights Threatened

LD1104204593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1725 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Pristina, 11 April (TANJUG)—In Serbia all citizens are equal and there is no national or racial discrimination, Vice President of the Serbian Government Zoran Arandjelovic today told a U.S. Congress delegation visiting Kosovo and Metohija.

Arandjelovic stressed that the Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija exercise their rights in line with the highest international standards, and denied allegations of them being allegedly threatened.

The problem is, he explained, the fact that the Albanian separatist leadership continue to insist on Kosovo's secession from Serbia as well as the fact that they have called on their people to boycott on a massive scale Serbia's laws and constitution.

The U.S. Congress delegation which came to Kosovo and Metohija, as its members said, to establish whether the Albanians' rights are under threat, wanted to know most of all why Kosovo's Assembly, which they call Albanian parliament, was dissolved. They repeatedly insisted on an answer to their question about what the Serbian authorities would do if the Albanians set up their own parliament in Kosovo and Metohija.

Tomislav Ilic, minister of justice in the Serbian Government, said that former members of the illegal assembly of the "Republic of Kosovo" have not been arrested, as representatives of the U.S. Congress claim; but he also said that forcible secession or threats to the country's integrity and sovereignty will not be tolerated in Serbia or Yugoslavia.

Delegation Member Eliot Engel tried to explain that the Albanians in Kosovo opted for secession because their civil rights were threatened by the alleged abolition of autonomy, and he even tried to find understanding for such conduct.

Engel asked representatives of the Serbian government whether they would consent to the presence of UN or EC peace forces in Kosmet [Kosovo-Metohija].

Zoran Arandjelovic answered by recalling that a CSCE mission is already active in Kosmet and that UN Protection Force representatives are positioned at the airport in Pristina.

Obviously dissatisfied with the answers, delegation members Bill Paxon and Peter King stated at the end of the meeting that they "are nevertheless of the same opinion as before they arrived in Kosovo, and that they did not believe what they were told by their collocutors."

Vice Premier Zoran Arandjelovic reacted by saying that "the Serbs cannot just say what others want to hear."

Serbian Deputy Foreign Minister Dobrosav Vejzovic also said that the American guests had information only from one side, and he voiced complaints about the work and the report of Tadeusz Mazowiecki [UN human rights rapporteur for former Yugoslavia].

Following the talks in the Kosovo district, the American guests had a meeting with Ibrahim Rugova, chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, and other leaders of Albanian political parties.

Rugova Warns of 'New Wave of Repression'

AU1104143793 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT Nr.70 in English 9 Apr 93

[Unattributed report published by the Democratic League of Kosova: "Press Conference of President Rugova of Kosova"]

[Text] President of the republic of Kosova, Dr Ibrahim Rugova, pressed today for bringing the Kosova issue to the UN Security Council's agenda, which, he said, is a form of prevention of a conflict outbreak in the area. Speaking at a press conference in Pristina, Dr Rugova said that a new wave of repression against the Albanians has been launched. He said that conviction of representatives of various international organizations which are intent on maintaining their presence in Kosova, as well as the international recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, faces Kosova with a cumbersome isolation and total blockade. President Rugova called for the Albanian question in Macedonia to be considered in the United Nations within negotiations on Macedonia.

Commenting on the news that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was to be accorded recognition at the UN, President Rugova said that the stance of Albanian political parties in Kosova, Macedonia and other Albanian ethnic territories concerning the position of Albanians in Macedonia as a state-founding element, based on the political will expressed in referendum, has not changed. "We hold that witout there are not prospects for Macedonia unless an agreement with Albanians living there is reached," stated Dr. Rugova.

President spoke also of the consequences of the recogition of Macedonia might have for Kosova, urging the Security Council to facilitate free circulation of people from Kosova via Macedonia. "The border between Kosova and Macedonia must not be turned into a primitive border, thus making circulation of the people of Kosova impossible, and in turn a total blockade of Kosova," Dr Rugova underscored.

Dr Ibrahim Rugova reiterated his call for the Kosova question to be urgently placed in the UN Security Council's aggenda.

Last week saw another victim of the Serbian police torture in Kosova, said Dr Rugova, referring to the death of Ali Rame Zeqaj from the village of Bokshiq (klina), who died of tortures and injuries inflicted upon him by the Serbian police, during a police clampdown on arms. "The retaliatory Serbian expeditions under the pretext of searching for arms among the Albanian population goes on unabated," said Dr Rugova, adding that newly-elected members of Kosova Parliament are subject to Serbian police repression, as well as leading activists of LDK.

President Rugova condemned the looting of Albanian-owned businesses and the Albanian citizens, whereas the forceful summary recruitment of Albanian youths to the Serbian military was assessed by Dr Rugova as a very dangerous occurrence.

Continuing, Dr Rugova said that the detention of the Pristina University rector, Dr Ejup Statovci, who is serving out a prison sentence, as well as yesterday's arrest of Dr Adnan Shabani, Medical Faculty teacher, is a Serbian provocation of the students of the University, which is operating under very hard conditions.

President Rugova of Kosova told the reporters that he had officially protested against the imprisonment of the French humantiarian organization "Equilibre" members, adding that it has become clear enough that the Serbian regime is sensitive to criticism from abroad and the presence of journalists, foreign delegations, and representatives of foreign humanitarian organizations.

Replying to a question put forward by a reporter, in reference to Serbian Parliament Chairman's alleged offer for dialogue, President Rugova reconfirmed the commitment of Kosova for talks with the Serbian side under international mediation, namely within the Geneva conference on former Yugoslavia. "We have had a grave experience in negotiating with the Serbian side," said Dr Rugova, referring to the failure of talks on educational issues within the Conference.

Asked to reveal the contents of the letter one of the cochairman of the Geneva conference, Lord Owen, sent recently to Dr Rugova, Kosova President said that the statement on the appropriate action aiming at alleviating Serbian repression in Kosova was promising. "We attach much importance to this, given the severe repression of Serbia in the recent time," ended Dr Rugova.